

Young Entrepreneurs & Leaders Speaker Series

2020-2021 AAC Intersessional Grants Final Report



Australian Government



AAC
AUSTRALIA-ASEAN COUNCIL
BRINGING TOGETHER THE PEOPLES OF
AUSTRALIA & SOUTH-EAST ASIA



**SOCIAL GOOD
OUTPOST**

“It is possible that the future Prime Minister of Australia and the future President of Indonesia became friends just last week. Investing in youth diplomacy – spanning youth scholarship programs, world forums, speaker series, entrepreneurship exchanges, and issue-focused workshops – aims to facilitate such people-to-people connections, building next-generation leadership.”

- Dr Elise Stephenson, Curator,
Young Entrepreneurs and Leaders Speaker Series

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About the Program

Young Entrepreneurs & Leaders Speaker Series – Digital Delegations Program

The aim of the Young Entrepreneurs & Leaders Speaker Series was to showcase, inspire, celebrate and connect young entrepreneurs and leaders making a difference to their societies.

In 2020-2021 we hosted a series of five “digital delegations” that brought young Australian experts and speakers to work with those across the ASEAN region. We hosted week-long digital delegations and run workshops, Q&As, forums, keynote speeches and events that gathered a broad range of society together to discuss important topics of collaboration.

This represented a COVID-19 pivot from our usual in-person public diplomacy events.

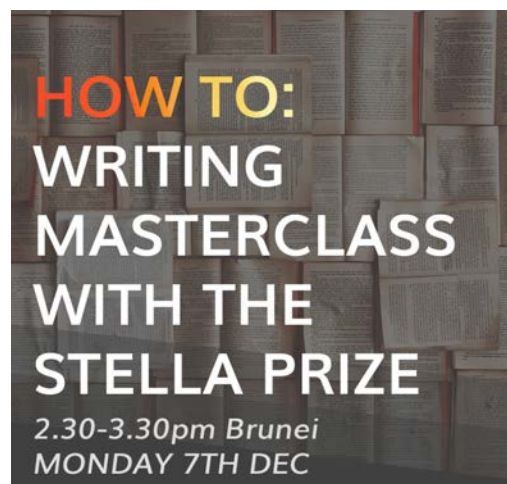
About the Program

We had 5 signature themes across the region:

- **Brunei:** Tiny Lit Fest
- **Vietnam:** Gender Month and International Women's Day
- **ASEAN-wide:** Next Gen Policy Change
- **Laos:** Mental Health and COVID-19
- **Myanmar, Philippines, Indonesia, Cambodia, Laos, Thailand:** What Next? Australia-ASEAN Entrepreneur Roundtables



**NEXT
GEN
POLICY
CHANGE**



Overall Statistics and Program Outcomes

We were committed to running ethical and environmentally sustainable events that were inclusive and welcoming of youth and supporters from all backgrounds. Our events were designed as safe and celebratory spaces for all genders and sexualities, cultures, different abilities, and other intersectionalities.

As such, we looked to support marginalised voices and provide a platform particularly for young women, LGBTI+ folk, and Indigenous and ethnic minority speakers.



Overall Statistics and Program Outcomes

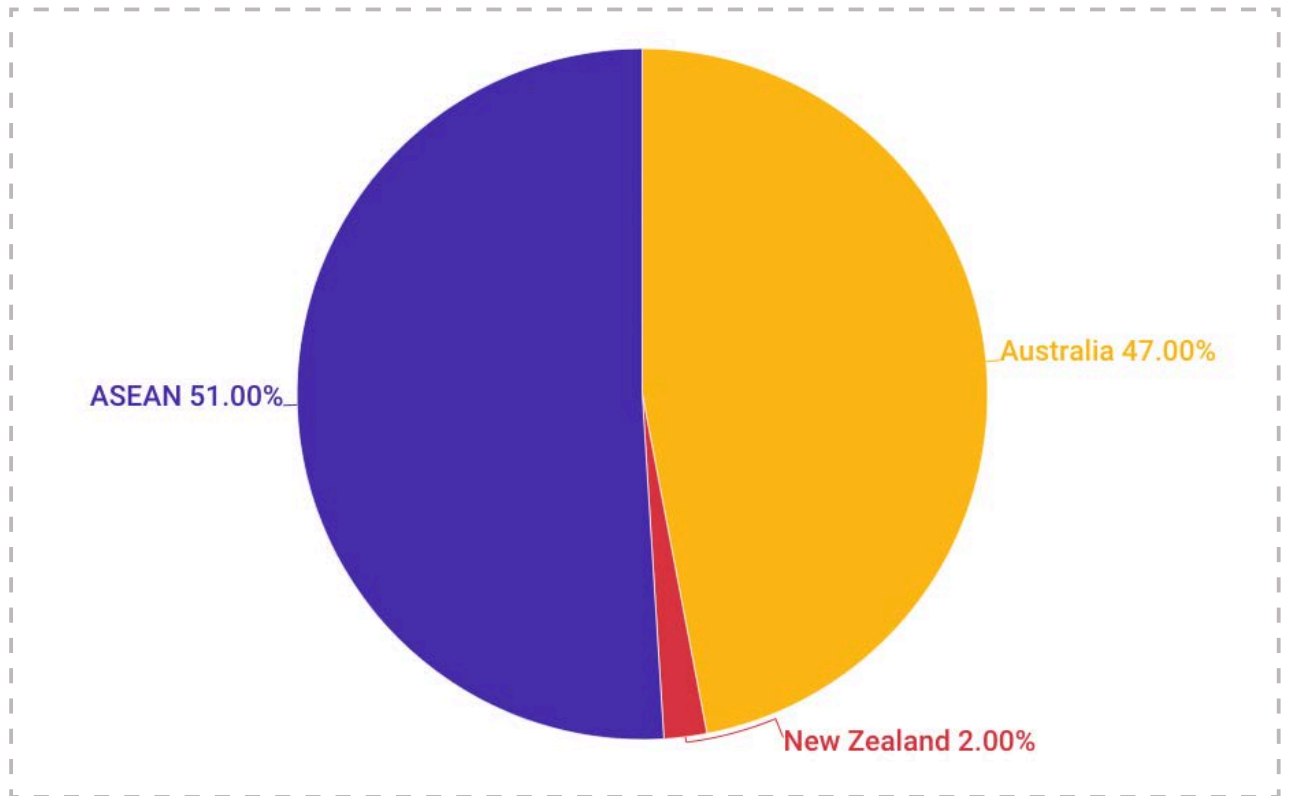
22

events run

49

guest speakers

Where our speakers lived:



Gender
stats:

38

female

1

non-binary

10

male

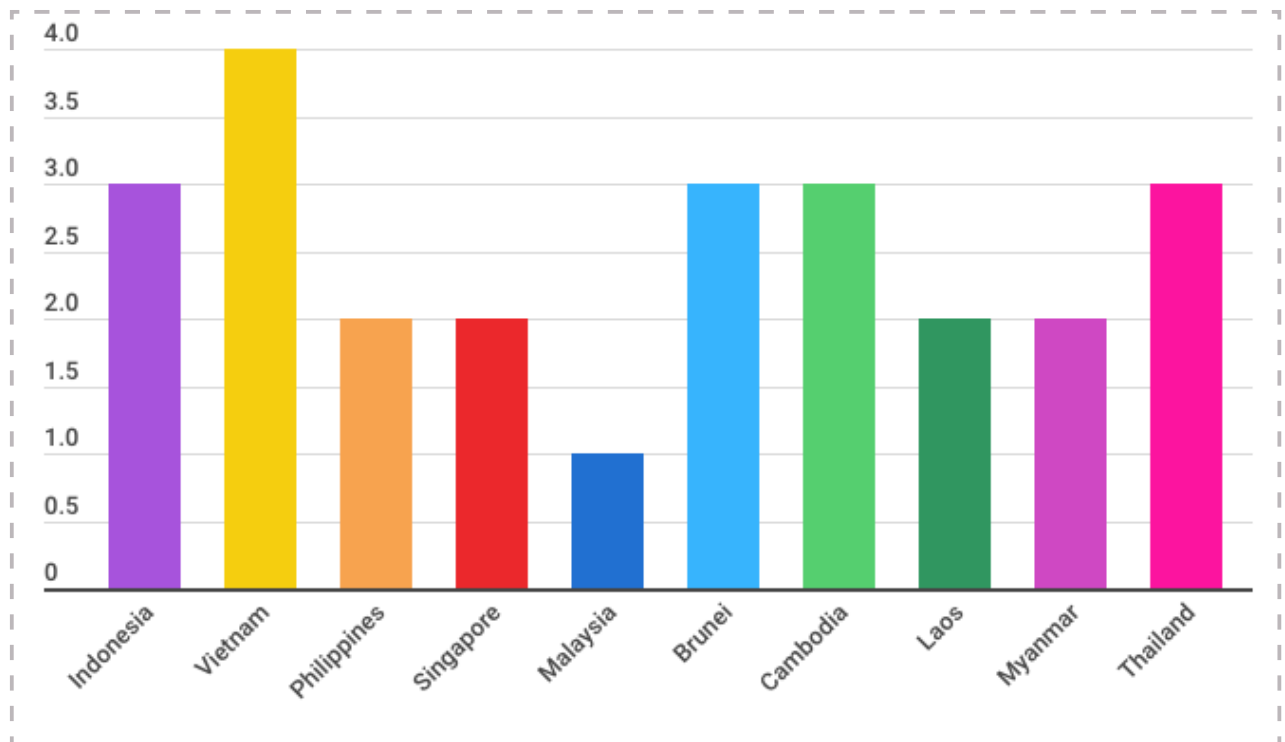
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identified as having a different ability / disability*

* Although additional speakers may have identified as such, this was not collected.

Overall Statistics and Program Outcomes

Speakers involved across the ASEAN region:



Diverse and representative speaker voices:

With the move to online events, we were able to involve more speakers from a wider range of backgrounds - not just those from Australia. We specifically looked to have representation from across the whole of ASEAN, and found it a real strength of the program to bring together such a range of speakers.

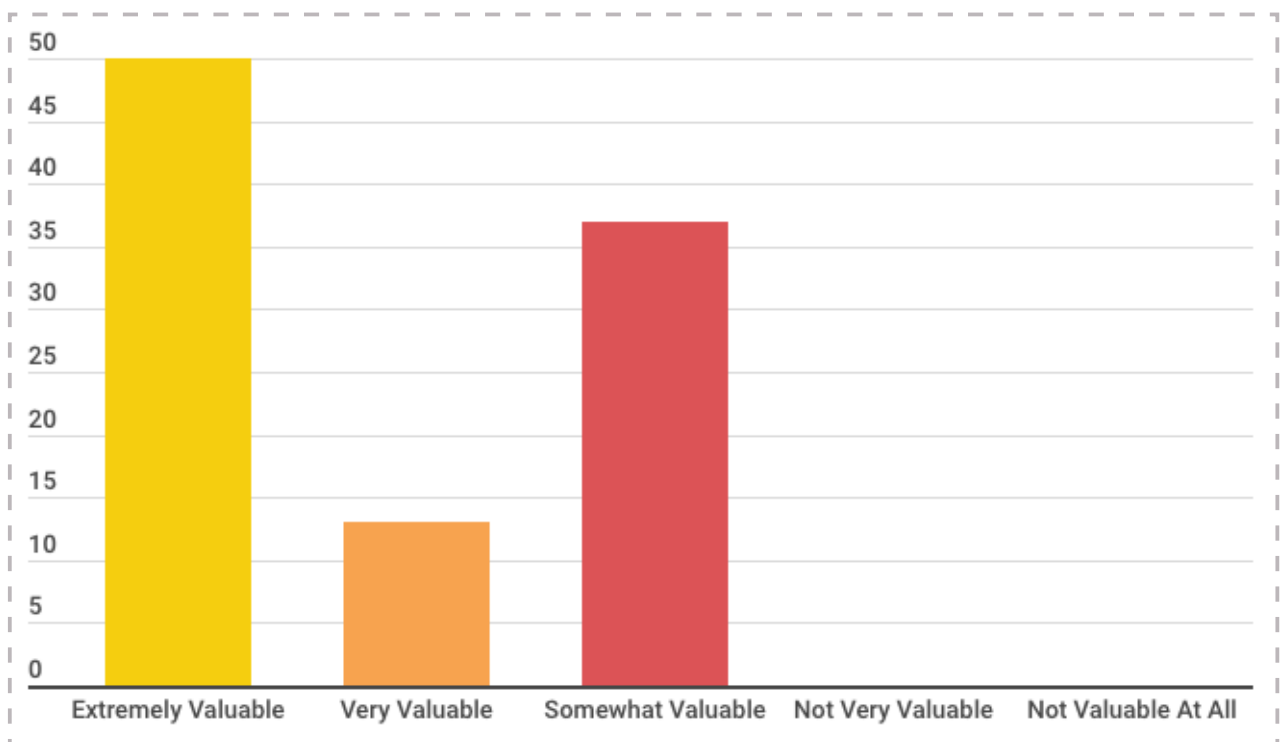
Overall Statistics and Program Outcomes

A speaker survey was sent to the speakers involved in the Speaker Series addressing overall program outcomes, based off generic DFAT public diplomacy aims. This Survey was sent at the conclusion of the Speaker Series and was open for 1 week. 20% of Speakers responded.

Establishing and fostering networks, collaborations and exchange:

- We had a mix of hands-on, small-group workshops led by speakers with audience participation (e.g. the Stella Prize masterclass or Lao Youth Union workshop on mental health), and
- Large-scale events, which included the sharing of participant opportunities for exchange, partnership, collaborations or networks

Did the Speaker Series provide valuable connections to leaders and entrepreneurs across the region?



Flexibility of the program

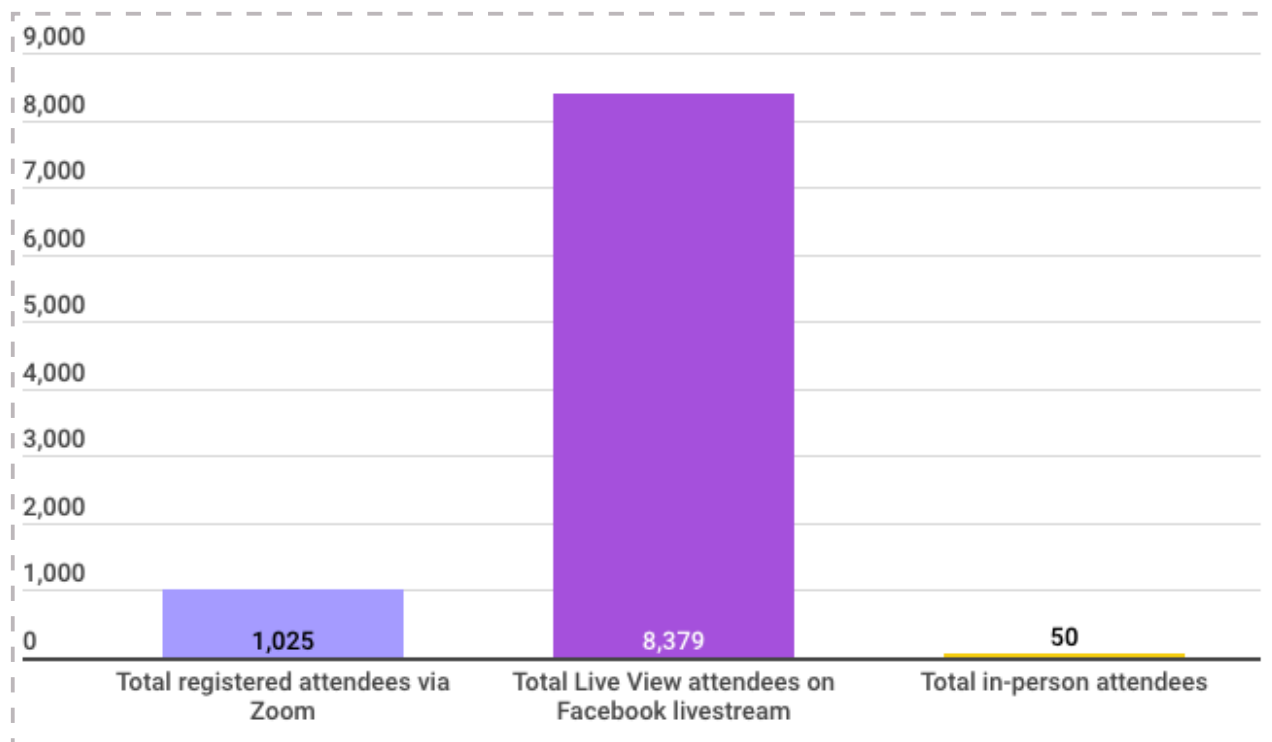
"Despite COVID-19 challenges in conducting physical activities and events, the program is flexible to conduct activities online. It is also important to note that the program really prioritises Post's view on relevance of activities with targeted stakeholders as well as Posts' capacity in organising activities during lockdown."

- Diana Viengvilay, DFAT, Laos Embassy

Overall Statistics and Program Outcomes

Enhancing and expanding audiences, markets and exports:

- Overall webpage views: 3,615
- Expanded audience across multiple sectors from public policy to social entrepreneurship, creative industries, tech, business, agriculture, literary and environment.



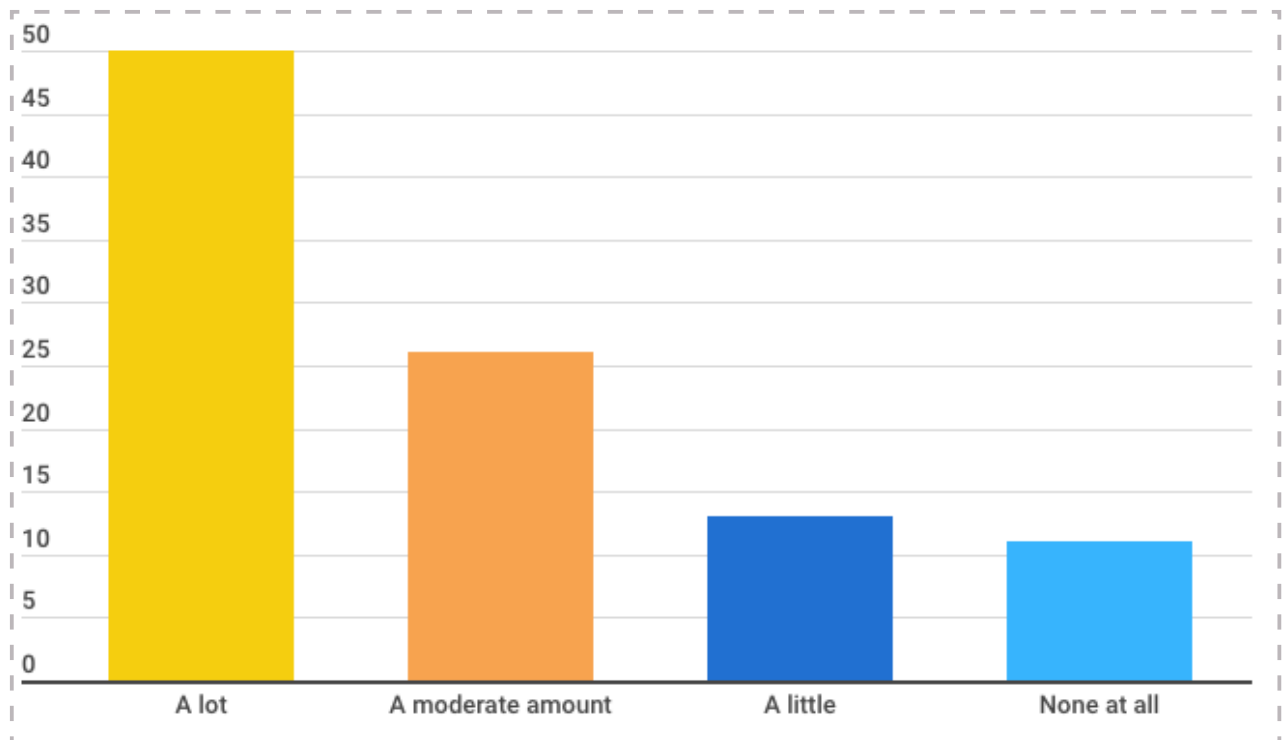
Nicole Gibson, former Mental Health Commissioner for Australia, in Laos in a previous event of Young Entrepreneurs and Speakers Series, 2019

Promoting Australian expertise:

- 23 Australian speakers plus Australian MC/Curator/Facilitators, including Young Australians of the Year, Women of Influence, Forbes 30 Under 30 leaders and New Colombo Plan Alumni.
- Promoting expertise across spheres like mental health (former Mental Health Commissioner for Australia), human rights and gender equality (world's top 100 gender policy experts, representatives to G20, W20 and so on), sport (former national sportsmen), culture (founders of Indigenous enterprise and education platforms), and so on.

Overall Statistics and Program Outcomes

Did the Speaker Series provide valuable exposure to leaders and entrepreneurs across different industries/sectors?



Leveraging partnerships:

- New partnerships with ASEAN organisations including the Tiny Lit Fest, HeartWrite, Australia-Vietnam Youth Leadership Dialogue (AVYLD), Fish Island Community Arts Centre
- New partnerships with Australian organisations including Griffith University, the Stella Prize, Gestalt Publishing, Raise Our Voices Australia, Future Anything, Monash University, National Indigenous Youth Education Coalition, UQ Press, Small Fires Publishing
- Strengthening existing partnerships with ASEAN organisations including Lao Youth Union, Buku Fixi, Epigram Press, Fanboys Infinite, Future Forum, Sangsan Anakot Yaowachan, Big BWN Project, SHE Investments



Professor Michael Mintrom, Dr Elise Stephenson and Nicole Dyson in Next Gen Policy Change

Overall Statistics and Program Outcomes

Building people to people links

- Speaker networks, including UQ Press offering publishing to ASEAN audience/participants in their sessions, UQ Press and Epigram in further talks, as well as UQ Press and Small Fires Publishing
- Audience networks
- One of our speakers is now running for election as Vietnam's first openly gay politician, another is heading to Tokyo for the Paralympics

Increasing youth acceptance in resolving social issues

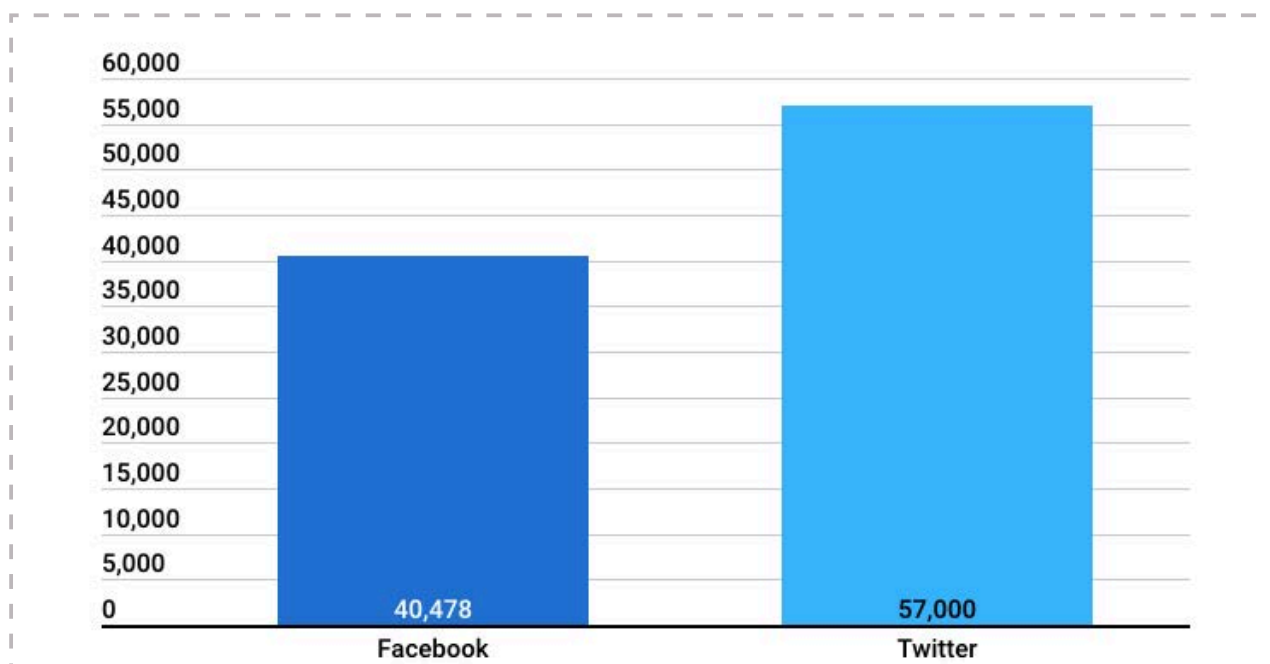
"Bringing young leaders into the program to share their knowledge and expertise to Lao organisations especially government organisations helps these organisations realise about the importance of youth involvement in social issues discussions and their ability to come up with creative solutions to the problems. This also helps to increase trust in youth capacity in Laos."

- Diana Viengvilay, DFAT, Laos Embassy

Strengthened engagement

- Maintained people to people engagement during COVID-19 through an online and mixed-mode medium
- Strengthened online engagement - new mode of operation and engagement for many

Total Online Engagements

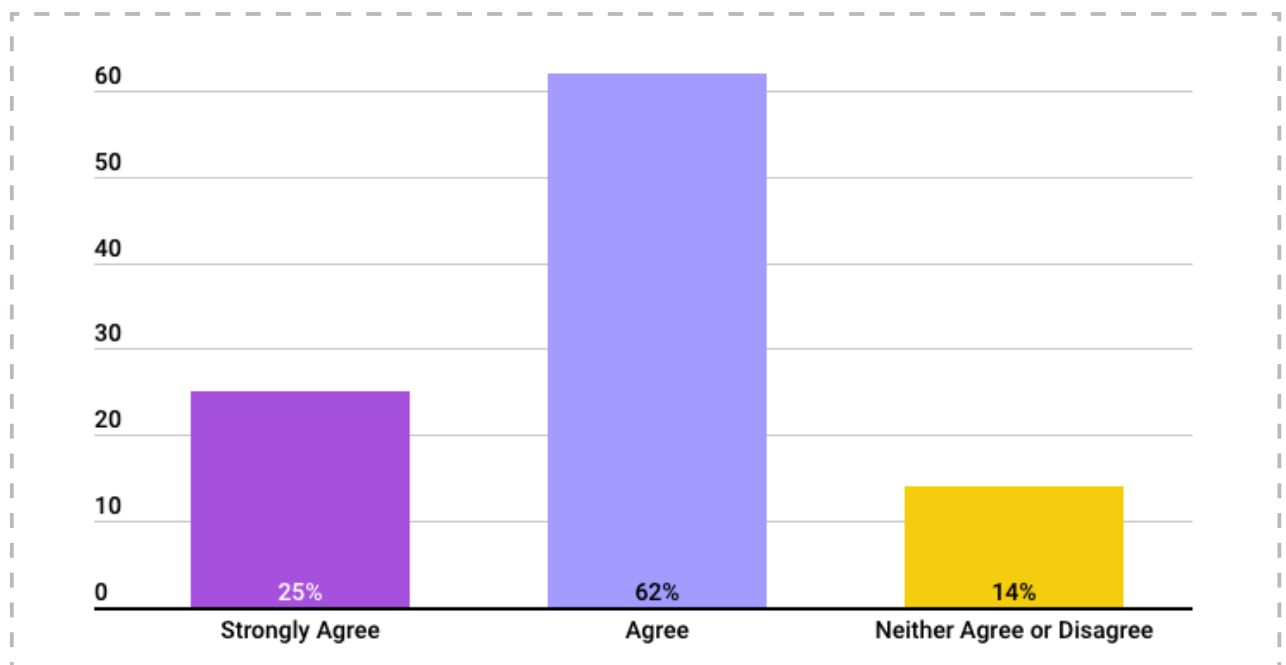


Overall Statistics and Program Outcomes

Influencing perceptions at home and abroad - creating a positive and contemporary image of Australia

- Media engagement and speaker series dedicated to sharing Australian excellence across a diversity of fields, sectors and people.
- Opening conversations, dialogue and exchange around the event theme/topic
- New conversations in particular around COVID-19 and mental health, LGBTIQ+ (in the context of Brunei and Vietnam in particular), regional stability (particularly regarding Myanmar)

The Speaker Series strengthened a positive and contemporary image of Australia across a diversity of fields



Skills-based approach

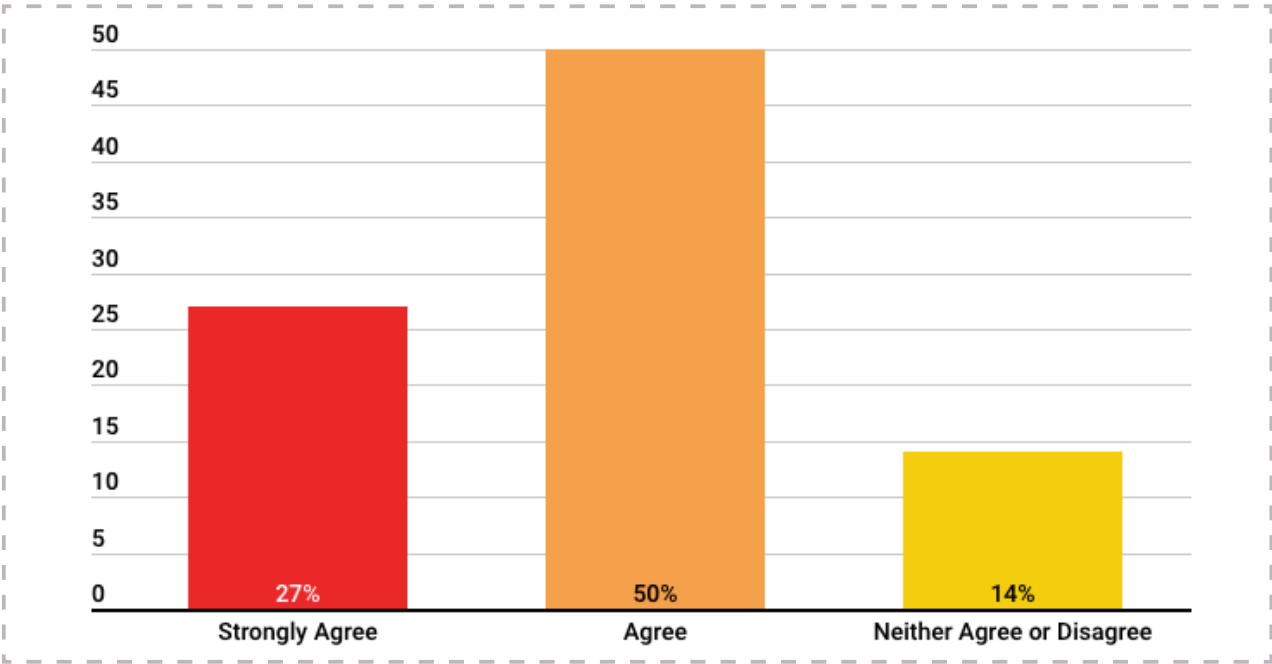
"Skills-based approach is the powerful and practical way to transfer knowledge and skills to the Lao Youth Union staff in tackling mental health issues among youth. The skills gained could be used in their day-to-day jobs. Also, with the establishment of the Whatsapp group with Nicole Gibson, ensures timely advice is provided to LYU staff when they have any issues or questions in providing counselling services to Lao youth."

- Diana Viengvilay, DFAT, Laos Embassy"

Did the event enhance and broaden the participants' understanding of Australia?

- Yes!

I gained exposure and valuable connections to Australian expertise on a variety of topics



Tiny Lit Fest



the tiny lit fest

www.socialgoodoutpost.com/tiny-lit-fest/

5-9 December 2020

BRUNEI

The Tiny Lit Fest is a local literary festival in Brunei that aims to amplify and celebrate local literature, and play a part in nurturing the local literary ecosystem, including publishers, readers, writers, printers, educators and all kinds of storytellers.

The Young Entrepreneurs & Leaders Speaker Series, supported by the Australian Government and Australia-ASEAN Council, was thrilled to partner with the Tiny Lit Fest to bring a week of events to Brunei for the December Festival 2020.

There were 7 main events that we led during the week:

- Opening Launch Party of the Tiny Lit Fest (supporting the Australian High Commission and Australian High Commissioner)
- How to: Comic Book Panel
- How to: Children's Publishing
- In-Discussion: with the Stella Prize on Writing for Your Younger Self
- Prose Writing Masterclass with the Stella Prize
- Poetry Writing Masterclass with the Stella Prize
- How to: Small Publishing

Tiny Lit Fest



Tiny Lit Fest poster, designed by Ezzani Khalid (@donebyjen on Instagram)

Tiny Lit Fest

Quick Stats:

- Featuring speakers from Australia, Malaysia, Brunei, and Singapore.
- Topics covered: Indigenous storytelling across Australia and Brunei; the power of poetry and prose for fighting oppression; writing comics for the stars - Marvel and beyond; how to publish and where to start; writing for children; and more.

Quick stats

11 speakers

7 events

342 registered attendees on Zoom

889 attendees over FB livestream

Promotions reached 32,463 on FB



the tiny lit fest

Topics covered

Indigenous storytelling

The power of poetry and prose

Writing comics for Marvel + beyond!

Writing for children

How to publish & where to start!

Tiny Lit Fest

Speakers:



Nicola Scott

Nicola is an Australian comic book artist. With a history in theatre and in costume design Nicola started pursuing a comics career in 2001. She quickly became a fan-favourite when she began working exclusively for DC Comics on iconic characters such as Superman, Batman and Wonder Woman and team titles such as "Birds Of Prey", "Secret Six", "Teen Titans" and New York Times Bestseller "Earth 2". 2016 saw the launch of her critically acclaimed creator-owned maxi-series 'Black Magick' and DC's 'Wonder Woman: Year One' to celebrate the characters 75th anniversary, both in collaboration with writer Greg Rucka. Also in 2016 Nicola partnered with DC Comics and The United Nations to create the key art for Wonder Woman's Honorary Ambassadorship For Women and Girls.



Andrew Constant

Andrew is an Australian comic book writer known for his award winning and award nominated work for two of Australia's largest comic book publishers, Frew Publications (Kid Phantom, as well as other upcoming stories in Phantom's Universe), and Gestalt Comics (Torn, Broken Line, Fly). Andrew recently wrote a miniseries for DC Comics, The Demon: Hell is Earth, which won Best Graphic Novel of 2018 at the The Australasian Horror Writers Association Shadow Awards.



Grace O'Hara *Small Fires Publishing*

Grace is Founder of Small Fires Publishing, a new publisher, creating real stories, by real people, about real places. We make beautiful, joyful picture books, in partnership with local change-makers, that show what it's like to grow up in different communities around the world. Money from each book goes back into supporting local leaders in the community it's about.



Priti Sharma *Epigram*

Priti Sharma is an Associate Lecturer with the English Language and Literature Programme at the Singapore University of Social Sciences (SUSS) where she teaches Children's Literature and Singaporean Literature. She is also an Editor of children's books at Epigram, an independent publisher based in Singapore.

Tiny Lit Fest



Felicity Dunning *University of Queensland Press*

Felicity Dunning is an editor who works across fiction, non-fiction, academic, poetry, children's and young adult titles. She has worked at the University of Queensland Press since 2016 after starting her career in education publishing and has a passion for editing books that promote positive social and environmental changes.



Jaclyn Booton *The Stella Prize*

Jaclyn has over 15 years' experience in the cultural sector, with a focus on the performing arts and literary events. She was previously the Senior Producer for Talks & Ideas at Sydney Opera House where she oversaw its two annual festivals: All About Women and Antidote. Prior to that, Jaclyn spent four years as General Manager of the Wheeler Centre for Books, Writing and Ideas, leading its business strategies and event operations. She has also held senior management positions with Arena Theatre Company, Back to Back Theatre and Circus Oz, and served on the boards of Express Media and SYN Media. Jaclyn holds a BA (Hons) in Performance Studies and Gender Studies from the University of Sydney, where she spent several years teaching a range of undergraduate programs and conducting research on large-scale community events. She is a life-long bookworm and sees no contradiction in being both an NRL fan and a lover of literature.



Laniyuk

Laniyuk is a Larrakia, Kungarakana, Gurindji and French writer and performer of poetry and short memoir. She contributed to the book *Colouring the Rainbow: Blak, Queer and Trans Perspectives* in 2015, has been published online in Djed Press and the Lifted Brow, as well as in print poetry collections such as UQP's 2019 *Solid Air* and 2020 *Fire Front*. She received Canberra's Noted Writers Festival's 2017 Indigenous Writers Residency, Overland's 2018 Writers Residency and was shortlisted for Overland's 2018 Nakata-Brophy poetry prize. She runs poetry workshops for festivals, moderates panel discussions, and has given guest lectures at ANU and The University of Melbourne. She is currently completing her first collection of work to be published through Magabala Books.



Sarah Ayoub

Sarah Ayoub is a journalist and author. Her writing has appeared in *The Guardian*, *The Sun-Herald*, *ELLE*, *Marie-Claire*, *Sydney Review of Books* and more. Sarah teaches writing at The University of Notre Dame in Sydney, where she is completing her PhD on migrant females in Australian Young Adult literature. She is the author of *Hate is Such a Strong Word* and *The Yearbook Committee* and a contributor to *Arab, Australian, Other*. Her forthcoming book, *The Cult of Romance*, is out in 2021.

Tiny Lit Fest



Robert Wood *Centre for Stories*

Robert Wood is interested in ethics, suburbs, nature, belonging and lifestyle. The author of four books, he works as the Creative Director of the Centre for Stories and the Chair of PEN Perth. Robert lives in Boorloo/Perth on Noongar country in Western Australia and is a Malayali person with connection to the East Indian Ocean. See his writing at: www.robertdwood.net



Wallea Eaglehawk *Revolutionaries*

Wallea Eaglehawk is the CEO and Editor-in-Chief of Revolutionaries, an independent Australian publisher. Eaglehawk is a social theorist, author of 'Idol Limerence' and co-editor of 'I Am ARMY'. With a background in arts production and community development, Eaglehawk is passionate about people, ideas and stories. Eaglehawk writes that 'we are all revolutionaries' and believes that the best way to change the world 'starts, and ends, with a love of the self'. Through everyday acts we can become revolutionaries, Eaglehawk's company, Revolutionaries, alongside her theoretical and literary work, aims to show just that.



Amir Muhammad *Buku Fixi*

Amir Muhammad is a Malaysian publisher, movie producer and occasional writer. His company Buku Fixi (established in 2011) has produced over 200 novels and anthologies of pulp fiction in Malay and English. The bestselling title is ASRAMA (60,000 copies) which is set in Sabah. Several of the books have been turned into movies and mini-series, with the most popular being GANTUNG which had a Malaysian and Indonesian cast. He also owns Kuman Pictures (established in 2018) with the aim of producing low-budget horror and thriller movies. Its fourth movie CEROBOK is being shot in December 2020.

Testimonials

Tiffany McDonald, Australian High Commissioner to Brunei Darussalam:

"Many thanks as well for helping us curate and deliver such an excellent program for the Tiny Lit Fest. I have heard nothing but great responses from the Brunei side and I had the pleasure of launching the festival with Dr. Katrina's who was also great to work with as well. Thank you again for all your work and I look forward to working with you again next year!"

Daniel Seehusen, Australian High Commission:

"It's been a wonderful program, and you have done an amazing job managing remotely."



Laniyuk, Australia



Amir Noor, Australian High Commission:

"Elise, thank you so much again for all your hard work and contributions in making the Australian connection with the Tiny Lit Fest! I think we genuinely couldn't have done it without YOU more than you mean for us but it is so great to be able to see the fruits of your labour grow with the community here as well as with Kat. Genuinely looking forward to seeing what both of you are able to come up with next year!"

Dr Kathrina Doud, Tiny Lit Fest:

"Thank you so much everyone for being a festival partner. I'm so grateful for all the amazing events you organized and advocated for!"

Tiny Lit Fest

Event Partners





Next Gen Policy Change

www.socialgoodoutpost.com/next-gen-policy-change-2/

8-12 February 2021

ASEAN-wide

Next Gen Policy Change was a week-long program for students, young professionals and changemakers held in the lead-up to the Business Innovation and Improvement in Government (Biig) Conference in Brisbane, Australia. It explored the big issues for change around the SDGs and having the important conversations around 'what's next' for policy across Australia and Southeast Asia.

The **Young Entrepreneurs & Leaders Speaker Series**, supported by the Australian Government and Australia-ASEAN Council, was thrilled to partner with **Griffith University** to deliver this program of digital events to Australia and the ASEAN region.








Next Gen Policy Change

There were 5 main events that we led during the week:

- **The Decade of Action:** Opportunities and Challenges Across Australian and ASEAN
- **How To:** Tackling the Big Issues in Society
- **Recovery and Regeneration:** A Masterclass on using Entrepreneurial and Policy Levers to make Change
- **Remaking the Future:** A Masterclass on Creating Better Normals
- **Stories from the Region and a Recap:** What Happens Next?

Quick stats

Speakers from:

 Australia,  Singapore,  Brunei,
 Cambodia,  Thailand

14 guest speakers

5 main events

550 zoom registrations

Media stats

Total FB Live views: 2,976

Total FB impressions: 6,574

Total FB engagements: 570

Twitter impressions: 57,000

Next Gen Policy Change webpage:

3,505 pageviews, 2,213 unique visitors

Social Change Central Campaign:

1,876 pageviews, 1,007 unique visitors

**NEXT
GEN
POLICY
CHANGE**

Next Gen Policy Change

Speakers:



Amelia Long

First Assistant Secretary, Australian Mission to ASEAN

Amelia is the Second Secretary at the Australian Mission to ASEAN. Prior to joining the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade in 2017, Amelia was a researcher at the Australian Strategic Policy Institute, where she focused on defence and security issues in Southeast Asia, and an editor of The Strategist. She has also previously worked at The Altruus Foundation in Sukabumi, West Java, and as Communications Officer at the ACT Chapter of the Australia-Indonesia Youth Association.



Cathy Hunt

Executive Director, Women of the World Festival

Cathy has spent her life working in the cultural economy, in the UK, Australia, New Zealand and Hong Kong, as a producer, festival director, cultural strategist and consultant. As one of the founding Directors of Positive Solutions, she has worked with governments on cultural policy and new facilities for the arts; organisations and artists on planning and capacity building and with the private sector on commissioning public art. As Executive Director of non profit Of One Mind Cathy works with the WOW Foundation in London to develop WOW (Women of the World) Festivals in Australia and was the Executive Producer of WOW at Festival 2018 (Celebrating the Women of the Commonwealth) and is leading a team for the creation of three WOW Australia Festivals in Queensland (the first cancelled in April this year). She has curated the Australian and Pacific content for WOW Global 24 and DomestiCITY for the Brisbane Festival 2020.



Matcha Phorn-In

Executive Director of Sangsan Anakot Yaowachon

Matcha is a lesbian Feminist Human Rights Defender, committed with a strong passion to build peoples' movements to advance human rights, Gender and SOGIESC justice. She has over 15 years of experience working to empower young people and those from the most marginalised communities, including LGBTIQ, indigenous people, ethnic minorities, young women and girls, stateless, undocumented refugees, sex workers, disability and migrant workers. Matcha has been recognised by the United Nations and is the Executive Director of Sangsan Anakot Yaowachon, a civil society organization working with young people from marginalized communities, many of whom are indigenous, in disaster-prone Thai villages at the border with Myanmar.

Next Gen Policy Change



Professor Caitlin Byrne
Director, Griffith Asia Institute

Professor Caitlin Byrne is Director, Griffith Asia Institute. She is a Fellow of the Australian Institute for International Affairs (AIIA) and Faculty Fellow of the University of Southern California's Centre for Public Diplomacy (CPD). Caitlin's research is focused on Australian diplomacy with a special interest in Australia's engagement in the Asia-Pacific region. Most recent research projects explore the role of leadership, soft power and public diplomacy-including people-to-people connections developed through international education, culture and sport-in developing Australia's regional influence, relationships and reputation.



Ash Streeter
Founder, Raise Our Voice Australia

ACT Woman of the Year 2018 and Forbes 30 Under 30 listee, Ashleigh Streeter has work in youth advocacy and campaigns for over eight years. She is the Vice-President of YWCA Canberra, Deputy Curator of Canberra Global Shapers and previously co-founded both Jasiri Australia's Girls Takeover Parliament in 2017 and Trailblazer program in 2018. She has advocated for youth and gender equality on an international level, including on the UN Women Youth Taskforce and at the Commission on the Status of Women. In 2019, she was recognized as one of Australian Financial Review's 100 Women of Influence. Ashleigh currently works in International Policy and in 2020, launched Raise Our Voice Australia, a training program to boost the presence of young female and non-binary voices in public decision making.



Virak Ou
Founder, Future Forum

OU Virak is one of Cambodia's most prominent and principled political analysts and human rights activists, with proven expertise in strengthening grassroots movements, conducting political economy analyses, spearheading organizational development and directing risk assessments. Prior to founding Future Forum in late 2015, Virak led the Cambodian Center for Human Rights, one of Cambodia's premier human rights organizations. He has led successful campaigns to free human rights activists and tackled some of the most controversial issues in Cambodia: rule of law, freedom of expression, racism, LGBT rights, forced evictions and more.

Next Gen Policy Change



Nicole Dyson
Future Anything

Nicole is a globally recognised expert and practitioner in project-based learning and student entrepreneurship. She is the founder of Future Anything, an award-winning, curriculum-aligned entrepreneurship program for high school students and the founder of YouthX, Australia's only startup accelerator program for school-aged entrepreneurs. Nicole is a contributor to the Foundation for Young Australian's YLab program, has represented Australia as a delegate for the G20 Young Entrepreneur's Alliance, held in Argentina in 2018 and was a finalist in the 2019 Business News Australia 'Young Entrepreneur Awards'. As a teacher in the USA, UK and Australia as well as a Head of Department and Head of Year at some of Queensland's top-performing public schools, Nicole has repeatedly led the design and implementation of whole-school changes to support future ready learning; placing young people at the forefront of co-designing contextually relevant learning experiences. Nicole is an engaging and skilled facilitator, panellist and speaker who is a passionate advocate for equity, the future of education, and empowering young people to bend the future; one youth-led idea at a time.



Professor Michael Mintrom
Monash University

Professor Michael Mintrom is an authority on public policy processes and advocacy. His award-winning research on policy entrepreneurship has been highly influential. Throughout his academic career, Michael has advanced knowledge of effective policy development, how policies can have strong, positive impacts, and how academic research can better inform practice. His models of strategic policy development have had significant impact across various areas of government activity. Michael serves both as a Professor of Public Policy and as the inaugural Director of Monash University's Better Governance and Policy campus-wide research focus area. In these roles, he deploys his strategic leadership and management capabilities to foster effective collaborations between university researchers and practitioners. He has significant experience in leading teams, strategic planning, and the management of complex and novel projects.

Next Gen Policy Change



Hayley McQuire

Co-Founder and National Coordinator of the National Indigenous Youth Education Coalition

Hayley is passionate about supporting young people to be critical and active drivers in our education ecosystem, where Indigenous ways of knowing, being and doing are embedded and tied to the aspirations of both Indigenous Nations and our young people. Committed to building on the work of her Old People who paved the way in Indigenous education, Hayley facilitates opportunities to share and learn from Indigenous Peoples internationally. Hayley is also former Australian Representative on the Youth Advocacy Group (YAG) for the United Nations Global Education First Initiative. The YAG acted as an advisory body, which represents and gives voice to the views of youth around the world on education. She is also former UNICEF Australia Youth Ambassador, GPE Youth Champion and presenter of the Deadly Vibe on Radio 4US Rockhampton.



Fisha Rashid

Founder, Big BWN Project

An entrepreneur and innovator with a legal background experienced in youth and community development for half a decade – Fisha is the founder of Big BWN Project; along with its many national initiatives and campaigns in support of Brunei's vision of 'Wawasan 2035' to create economic opportunities and to empower the local community, youth, entrepreneurs and women. Fisha has successfully initiated multiple impact driven community campaigns from supporting and developing local small businesses to issues on environmental awareness, and building sustainable communities to empowering women entrepreneurs. She has addressed multiple local and international panel discussions and talks, and mentored and judged various competitions. She is well known to be an effective communicator and motivator who identifies and leverages assets to reach national goals and drive long term sustainable impact within the community.



Tiffany McDonald

Australia's High Commissioner to Brunei Darussalam

Ms McDonald is a career officer with the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT). She has previously served overseas in Seoul, London and Jakarta. She holds a Master of Laws from the University of Queensland and a Bachelor of Arts/Bachelor of Laws from the Australian National University.

Next Gen Policy Change



Ben Abbatangelo

Storyteller, former professional cricketer and deputy CEO of AIME

Ben Abbatangelo is a Gunaikurnai man from eastern Victoria, a virtuoso storyteller and polymathic leader. Ben is a former professional athlete with the Melbourne Stars and Deputy CEO of the global award winning non-profit, AIME Mentoring. A highschool dropout, grounded in the School of Life, Ben has been recognised for his contributions to social impact and received multiple awards including the Westpac Social Fellowship and heeded praise from figures like Richard Branson. At the age of 27, Ben is a published author, Ambassador for Treaty Victoria and regular contributor for the ABC, Guardian & VICE. An actionist, intentional provocateur and creative, Ben devotes his time to improving the human condition.



Professor Susan Harris Rimmer

Director, Policy Innovation Hub, Griffith University

Professor Susan Harris Rimmer is the Director of the Griffith University Policy Innovation Hub. Susan is an expert in women's rights and international law. She was involved with the creation of the position of the Global Ambassador for Women and Girls; and supported the creation of the W20 summit in Turkey, and the C20 in Australia (civil society grouping giving policy advice to the G20). She was Australia's representative to the W20 in Turkey 2015, China 2016 and Germany 2017. Sue is a non-resident Research Associate in the Gender and Growth Initiative at Chatham House in the UK. In 2018, she was named one of Apolitical's 100 Most Influential People in Gender Policy, globally, and one of 20 Queensland Voices Female Leaders in 2019.



Yip Pin Xiu

Singaporean Paralympian & ex-nominated member of Parliament

Pin Xiu is Singapore's first and only Paralympic Gold medalist. She has Marie Charcot Tooth, a deteriorating condition that affects her nerves and muscles. Throughout her swimming career, she has competed in regional and international competitions. She has competed in 3 Paralympic Games and has won a total of 3 Gold and 1 Silver Paralympic medals. Pin Xiu currently holds two world records. She has a list of achievements under her belt – such as the Meritorious Service Medal during the National Day Awards and also inducted into the Singapore Women's Hall of Fame and Sport Hall of Fame. As a former Nominated Member of Parliament, Pin Xiu is a strong advocate for sports, women and people with disabilities.

Next Gen Policy Change

Testimonials

"Thank you for the links and the wonderful information this afternoon."

"That was a very strong and rich session... I was very inspired"

"Thanks for sharing more on how to embed entrepreneurship in schools."

"You selected an incredible list of people for all of the events. In awe of all of them."

"Such rich ideas and advice! What a great way to spend a Monday night! Thanks to everyone involved in putting this together!"



Matcha-Phorn-In, Thailand



Cathy Hunt, Australia

Next Gen Policy Change

Quotes from the week

"All issues and all ideas start locally." - Tiffany McDonald

"There are so many issues that don't stop at the border." - Tiffany McDonald

"Everything you need to achieve change is already in your community. Start small, start it yourself" - Fisha Rashid

"Do the work when no-one is watching, then do even more when they are" - Hayley McQuire



Hayley McQuire, Australia

"Think Big, Start Local" - Tiffany McDonald

"Once we start to think for each other, the world will be better." - Yip Pin Xiu

"We should hang in this time of tension to be able to unlock solutions." - Ben Abbatangelo

"Engage more meaningfully with the market place of ideas" - Ben Abbatangelo

"Treat everyone you meet with extreme dignity to hear their stories." - Sue Harris Rimmer



Sue Harris Rimmer, Australia

"I live by my legacy principle – a lot of the time you want to be on the right side of history, whatever that means for you." - Sue Harris Rimmer

"[advice to youth] I would recommend studying a language. Knowing a language is knowing a culture." - Amelia Long

"The Indo-Pacific frames the way Australia thinks about our foreign policy...South-east Asia's recovery is our recovery" - Australian Mission to ASEAN, Amelia Long

"We cooperate to address the challenges and create opportunities." - Amelia Long

Next Gen Policy Change

Event Partners







Gender Month and International Women's Day

31 October 2020 and
8 March 2021
VIETNAM

Focusing on building capacity around gender equality and women's empowerment, our events in collaboration with the Australian Embassy in Vietnam centred around Vietnam's Gender Month and International Women's Day.

Quick stats for International Women's Day


4 speakers from  Australia and  Vietnam

44 participants in the Zoom panel



~50 participants in-person at the Embassy in Vietnam

4259 views on Facebook

207 Facebook engagements

One of the speakers is now Vietnam's first gay man to run for politics! 
(Luong The Huy)

Quick stats from Gender Month

4 speakers from  Australia and  Vietnam

74 Zoom registrations

27 people on average in the live Zooms

A further 255 viewers on FB live

Reached 571 people on Facebook with 93 Facebook interactions

INTERNATIONAL
WOMEN'S
DAY

Gender Month and International Women's Day

Speakers:



Luong The Huy
Director of iSEE Institute

Luong The Huy started LGBTI advocacy work in 2008. He has been actively engaged in the campaign of same-sex marriage since 2013, trans rights since 2014 and Vietnam's participation in UN Human Rights Council mechanisms. In 2016, Huy was on Forbes Vietnam's "30Under30" list as one of the 30 most inspiring people under the age of 30 in Viet Nam. In 2018, Huy was granted Fulbright Vietnamese Student Scholarship to pursue Master of Law (LL.M.) at UCLA, with specialization in Law and Sexuality. Huy is working as director of the iSEE Institute, a Vietnamese NGO working for minorities rights.



Dr Hoang Tu-Anh
Vice-Director, CCIHP (Centre for Creative Initiatives in Health and Population)

Dr Hoang Tu-Anh has been promoting sexual and reproductive health and rights in Vietnam for 20 years. Tu-Anh is among the founders of the Vietnam Gender-Based Violence Prevention and Response Network (GBVNet). She led the qualitative component of the two national studies on violence against women. During the first surge of COVID in Vietnam back in April 2020, she, together with a group of friends, has mobilised a large amount of funds from public through FB and other social media channels to buy medical masks, PPE and medical equipments for health workers on the front lines. They have delivered them to the most needed on time, but in dangerous circumstances, for examples to Bach Mai hospital in the peak of the surge.



Anna Guenther
Co-founder and Chief Bubble Blower of PledgeMe

Since launching 8 years ago, over 1,500 creative, community and entrepreneurial campaigns have raised almost \$55 million through the platform. PledgeMe was the first licensed equity crowdfunding platform in New Zealand, and one of the first in Australia. Anna has also worked for the New Zealand Government, MIT and Harvard, and completed her Masters in Entrepreneurship with a focus on crowdfunding. One of her favourite recent campaigns was for the Food Connect Shed, who raised \$2.1million from their "Careholders" to buy their local food hub. In her spare time, Anna organises Unconferences for people who get sh*t done and eats all the cheese thanks to her cheese subscription box company, Cheese Cartel. She cares deeply about social enterprise, equity in all its forms, and using technology to enhance community rather than replace it.

Gender Month and International Women's Day



Dr Blair Williams

Research Fellow at the Global Institute for Women's Leadership at The Australian National University

Dr Blair Williams is a Research Fellow at the Global Institute for Women's Leadership at The Australian National University, researching the gendered mediation of women in politics, particularly political leaders, to examine the role that the media play in the upholding of gender norms. She is currently interested in examining media coverage of women leaders' handling of the COVID-19 pandemic. Her research and activism have garnered mainstream media attention, frequently appearing on radio, television and in newspapers.



Jaïne Morris

Chief Operating Officer of Coreo

As Co-Founder and Chief Operating Officer of Coreo Jaïne works with communities, corporations and governments to cultivate innovation and support leaders to transition towards a circular economy. Jaïne's expertise lies in her deft capacity to take her clients on a journey towards circularity that is inclusive, engaging and enlightening (not to mention fun). Don't be fooled though, although Jaïne exudes childlike enthusiasm and lighthearted energy her work has been recognised and celebrated on an international stage with invitations to share her expertise at the 2019 United Nations General Assembly. In recognition of her unique and specialised experience actioning circular economies globally, Jaïne has been appointed as an Adjunct Fellow at Griffith University, a university ranked in the top 2% of universities worldwide. In this capacity Jaïne, alongside her Coreo Co-Founder Ashleigh, developed and teaches into a Circular Economy Micro Masters course that currently has a 9.7 out of 10 satisfaction rating.



Hanh Le

Vietnam Country Representative at Global Green Growth Institute

Hanh Le is the Country Representative of the Global Green Growth Institute (GGGI) in Viet Nam. She is responsible for GGGI Viet Nam's programs in green finance and renewable energy. Hanh has over 10 years of international experience in the areas of energy, climate change, green growth and sustainable development policies, working in public sector organizations, inter-governmental organizations, private consulting firms as well as financial institutions. Hanh holds Dual Master Degrees in Public Policy from Sciences Po (Paris, France) and National University of Singapore and a Bachelor degree in Finance and Economics from Lincoln University (New Zealand).

Gender Month and International Women's Day



Tran Thi Hoa

Chair of Founding council, Director of Centre for Supporting Green Development (GreenHub)

Ms Tran Thi Hoa is a recognized sustainability and environmental leader in Vietnam, with specific expertise in the waste management sector. Hoa brings with her almost two decades of experience working with international organizations and managing development projects addressing issues such as natural resources co-management, waste management, environmental protection, plastic pollution and climate change adaptation. A strong advocate of the "zero waste" approach, she has helped pioneer its introduction in Vietnam, sharing her experiences with global networks.



Trina Massey

Community Advocate, former Greens candidate

Experienced Arts Administrator with a demonstrated history of working in the contemporary music industry. Creative Industries development and program management specialist, skilled in entrepreneurship, professional development programs, and marketing. Strong operations professional with a Bachelor of Arts (BA) focused in History - Political Science from The University of Queensland.



Lucy Phillips

First Secretary, Economic and Development Cooperation, Australian Embassy Hanoi



Robyn Mudie

Australian Ambassador to Vietnam

Ms Mudie is a senior career officer with the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade and was most recently the founding Executive Director of the Diplomatic Academy. She has previously served overseas as Australian High Commissioner to Sri Lanka and Maldives; Deputy Permanent Representative to the United Nations (Geneva); First Secretary, UN Permanent Mission, New York; and Second Secretary, Hanoi. In Canberra Ms Mudie has served as Assistant Secretary, Public Diplomacy Branch; Assistant Secretary, Information Resources Branch; and Director, Strategic Policy Section.

Gender Month and International Women's Day



Testimonials / Feedback

“It was such an interesting discussion and there were some excellent insights offered. I very much hope we can work together again. You play a very important role in initiating and convening discussion on the burning topics of the moment and it’s a great opportunity for us as well as the audience.” - **Head of Mission, Ambassador Robyn Mudie**

“Elise, You were absolutely awesome. The questions were great! Please leave the video on so that we can get people to watch it again. Looking forwards to work with you again!” - **Australian Embassy Hanoi**

Gender Month and International Women's Day

Summaries of learnings from the events

We need community-invested leadership.

Gender equality starts in the home and filters out into public life. Being able to reflect and commit to learning and unlearning is important to being able to step forward into gender equality.

Research and education remain critical. We need to know the status of women's experience of the world and how this is shifting. We need to ensure girls get good quality and continued education. We also need to educate all next generations around creating equal futures.

Amongst the devastation of COVID, there have also been things young people have been able to draw on to strengthen themselves and their community. Resilience and connection have grown, and set the next generation up well to be empathetic, connected and adaptable leaders.



Tu Anh Hoang, Vietnam

Young people bring their open-mindedness, creativity and kindness to problem-solving gender equality. We must continue to build on and support this.

Practice the act of 'calling people in' rather than always 'calling people out' is an important one for confronting bias and stereotypes. Every opportunity is an opportunity for learning.

It can be hard to challenge sexist comments, jokes and behaviour, however appealing to people's good-nature is one way to confront bias. Comments like "you're better than that", or establishing a common ground can help.

We must learn to value people leading in different ways.



Huy Luong, Vietnam

Gender Month and International Women's Day

The media plays a strong role in supporting gender equality and women's leadership. We must reflect on how they portray women and how we support women leaders to navigate the media as well as things like trolling.

Women-owned-business receives only 1% of global procurement. Women-owned-business is (conservatively) underfunded by \$1 trillion. During COVID, the success rate of women gaining funding for business has fallen."



Anna Guenther, Australia

Different sexualities, gender identities, ethnicities, abilities, and so on, have been unequally impacted by the pandemic. Prior to the pandemic, transwomen had a high proportion of employment in the entertainment industry - what happens during lockdown? And how can we ensure that recovery is 'intersectional' - accounting for not just gender, but sexuality, ethnicity and other elements of individuals' backgrounds?



Ambassador Robyn Mudie, Vietnam

Sexual harassment, sexism and gender inequality in politics and government must continue to be addressed. More research on the gendered nature of workplaces is needed, and more education at all levels of employment can ensure we begin to change organisational cultures for the better.

Gender Month and International Women's Day

Event Partners





COVID-19 and Mental Health Support

8 June 2021

LAOS

In partnership with the Australian Embassy in Laos and the Lao Youth Union (LYU), guest speaker Nicole Gibson ran an in-depth workshop and training for volunteers of LYU, staff and support hotline workers. This built off work Nicole had started under the Young Entrepreneurs & Leaders Speaker Series in 2019, continuing the development of the Australia-LYU relationship.

Quick stats

15 registered attendees

1 speaker

Topics covered: providing mental health support through COVID-19, responding to mental health crises, overcoming divisions, connecting with peers and family



COVID-19 and Mental Health Support



Nicole Gibson speaking in Laos for the Young Entrepreneurs & Leaders Speaker Series in 2019.

Speaker:



Nicole Gibson

CEO and Founder, Love Out Loud

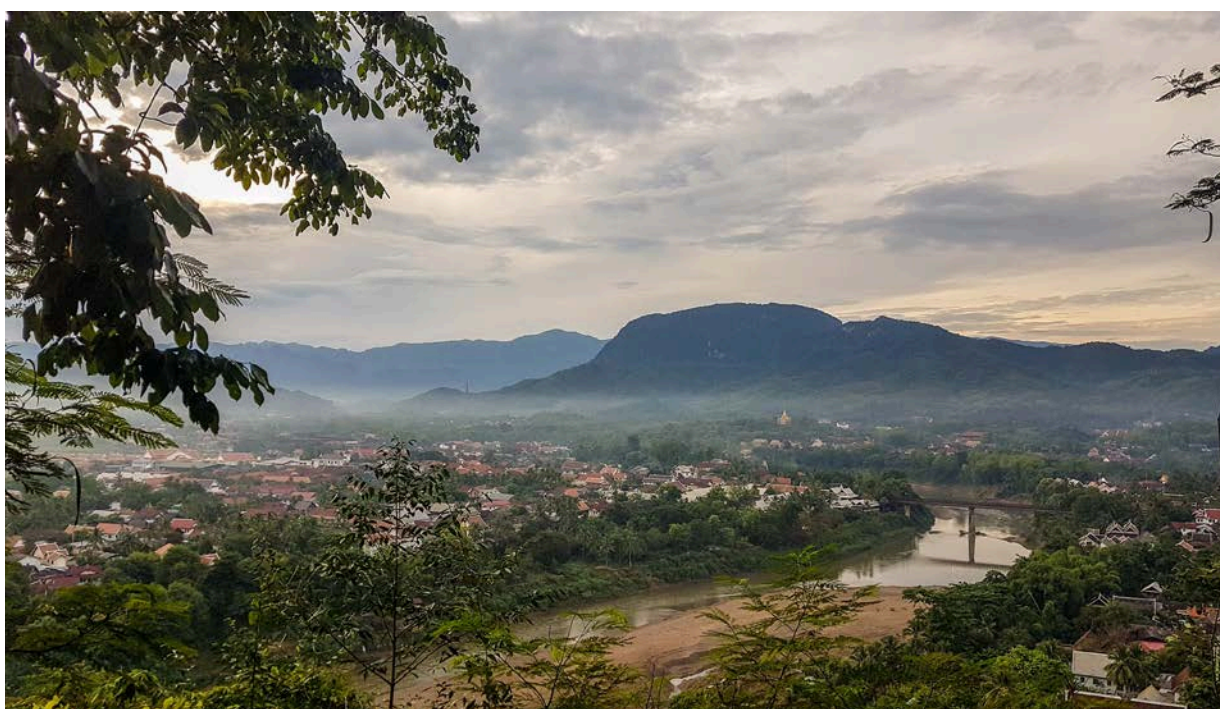
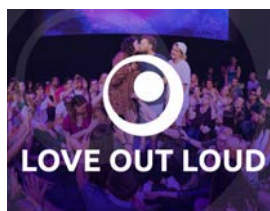
Nicole Gibson is an Australian multi-award winning Millennial Entrepreneur, Former Mental Health Commissioner, Speaker, Transformational Facilitator & Unifier.

Since speaking at our June 2021 event, the speaker and Lao Youth Union have now established an ongoing networking space together online.

“There has never been a more important time for us to extend the borders of our hearts and learn to understand differences in perspective and culture. From this place, we can create a powerful narrative of healing and growth for future generations.” - Nicole Gibson

COVID-19 and Mental Health Support

Event Partners





What Next?

Australia-ASEAN

Entrepreneur Roundtables

<https://socialgoodoutpost.com/what-next-young-entrepreneurs-leaders-speaker-series/>

17 May – 3 June 2021

MYANMAR, PHILIPPINES,
INDONESIA, CAMBODIA, LAOS,
THAILAND

Given that COVID-19 has caused all kinds of disruption for young entrepreneurs in Australia and ASEAN, and changed the very shape of the programs and public diplomacy events we have run, these roundtables – and subsequent report we published – explored:

- How has COVID-19 changed what young entrepreneurs and leaders in the region do, how have they adapted, what have been the big opportunities and challenges, and what's next?

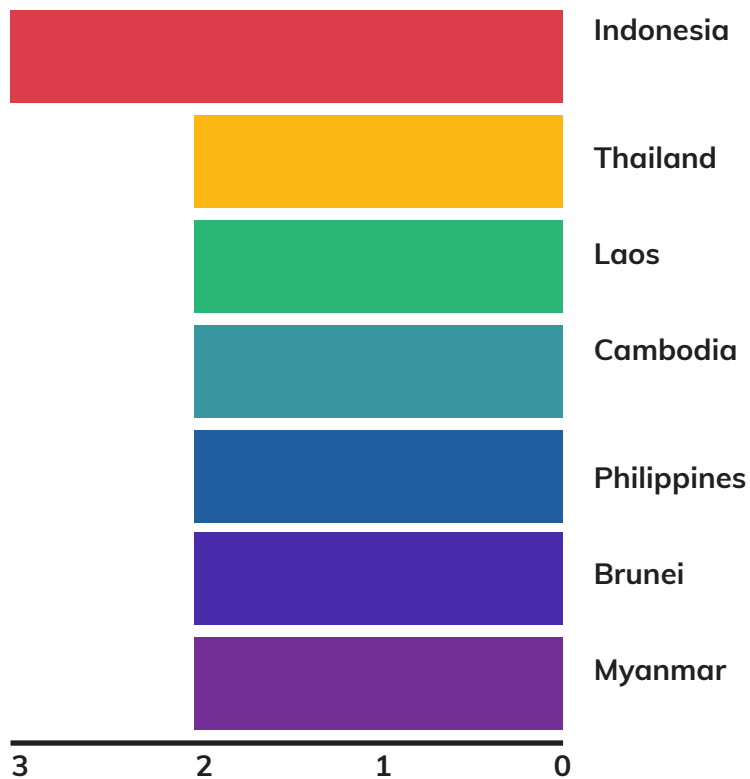
Over the course of 6 roundtables (all recorded except for Myanmar), these roundtable discussions shared young entrepreneurs pioneering change in their countries, adapting to COVID-19 and emerging crises, and seeking opportunities for collaboration in the future.

*WHAT
NEXT?*

What Next? Australia-ASEAN Entrepreneur Roundtables

Quick stats

Roundtable participants by location:



Just under half of the entrepreneurs (6 out of 15) interviewed had started a new business during COVID.

< 5 yrs

Most had started their business in the last 5 years.

58% social enterprise

All had some kind of social purpose or drive, with eight (58%) explicitly identifying as social enterprises.

What Next? Australia-ASEAN Entrepreneur Roundtables

Participants' industries included:

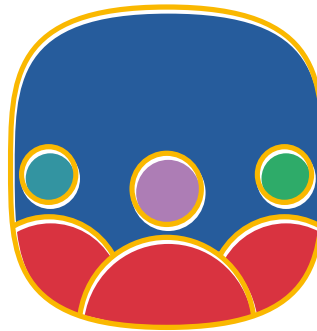
2 Food and Beverage

1 Fintech

5 Education and the Arts

3 Fashion

3 Professional Services



A majority of the entrepreneurs work alone or with one other, however a few whom took part had teams of staff (5+).



A third (5 out of 15) of entrepreneurs had either started by doing business in Australia, with Australians, or with support of Australian funding.

What Next? Australia-ASEAN Entrepreneur Roundtables



Toomkham Phoungmachan ***Business Development Consultant***

More than 10 years in banking and finance and 5 years as an entrepreneur, former CEO and founder of iCare Benefits Laos involving more than 245 Orgs with 45,000 employees joining the program, currently working with rural agricultural entrepreneurs in Laos.



Visouda (Anna) Viravong ***CEO and Founder, Wine Haus Laos***

I was born and raised here in Laos and graduated high school from Vientiane International School. After my higher education studies in Melbourne, Australia; I have worked and owned several other businesses of my own in Melbourne before moving back to Vientiane two years ago. My long-standing passion and love for natural and organic wines has currently led me to becoming the CEO and founder of my own boutique wine store Wine Haus Laos. Starting Wine Haus Laos, has sparked the passion that has been buried deep inside of me for a while until recently when I decided to launch a consultancy company A&G Consultancy Firm - that helps people to build and develop businesses/brands that are memorable, profitable and inspiring.



Wilson Limon Jr ***Founder, NIñOFRANCO***

Bringing our roots and heritage to a societal integration in this modern times through fashion has been NIñOFRANCO's lifelong vision. We envision of transforming a western-minded Philippines into a culturally-enriched nation that gives livelihood to individuals and communities who have kept the true art of Philippines.



Angel Abellana ***Founder, Phenomenal Filipina***

Angel "Ey" Abellana is a Senior Geodetic Engineer, writer, digital marketer, an engineering instructor, and an entrepreneur. She served as the ASEAN Regional Director of ASEAN Abundance Innovation Lab, mentoring and implementing hundreds of campaigns and enterprises with various causes ranging from environmental to civic to business development around ASEAN, USA, Japan and Australia.

She specializes in the startup ideation stage and promoting entrepreneurial mindset as drivers for social change. Her ultimate dream is to provide jobs for Filipinos while continuously adventuring around the world.

What Next? Australia-ASEAN Entrepreneur Roundtables



Matcha Phorn-In **Executive Director and Founder,** **Sangsan Anakot Yaowachon**

Matcha is a lesbian Feminist Human Rights Defender, committed with a strong passion to build peoples' movements to advance human rights, Gender and SOGIESC justice. She has over 15 years of experience working to empower young people and those from the most marginalised communities, including LGBTIQ, indigenous people, ethnic minorities, young women and girls, stateless, undocumented refugees, sex workers, disability and migrant workers.

Matcha has been recognised by the United Nations and is the Executive Director of Sangsan Anakot Yaowachon, a civil society organization working with young people from marginalized communities, many of whom are indigenous, in disaster-prone Thai villages at the border with Myanmar.



Wipaphan Nana Wongsawang **Thaiconsent and Coconut Empire**

Wipaphan Nana Wongsawang launched Thaiconsent since 2015, in order to make awareness of gender-based violence and consensual sex through art and creative community. The primary mission of Thaiconsent is to promote the concept of 'consensual sex' and awareness to Thai society. In addition, Thaiconsent is tasked by various education institutions and NGOs to provide leadership in education and mentorship programs to tackle gender injustice and discrimination.



Celia Boyd **Co-Founder, SHE Investments**

Celia is a co-founder of SHE Investments, Cambodia's first business incubator and accelerator that applies a gender and cultural lens. Since launching SHE almost 7 years ago, the social enterprise has grown from 3 co-founders to a team of over 35 across 5 provinces, and become a leading organisation supporting women entrepreneurs to scale and create economic, social and environmental impact for communities.

Celia's background is in international development, having worked with projects across gender, health, microfinance, disaster recovery and economic development with communities in Cambodia, Kenya, Australia and Papua New Guinea. She has been based in Cambodia for the past 6.5 years, focusing on building SHE Investments and specialising in women's economic empowerment through entrepreneurship.

What Next? Australia-ASEAN Entrepreneur Roundtables



Kek Soon aka Gechsoun Khun ***Founder of Fish Island Community Arts Centre***

Khun Gechsoun is founder of the Fish Island Community Arts Centre where she has opened her own hospitality school and offers free training in cuisine, tourism, arts & crafts, and English language classes to youth from surrounded fishing and farming villages on Trey Koh.

Since 2018, Soon has managed her own cooking school and has continued to build FICAC with plans set to launch a Media Arts school in 2022. She is also a mother and practising artist with several exhibition of her unique wood block prints and paintings to her credit. Soon continues to work with a passion to share her skills and knowledge and inspire young Cambodians, especially girls and women, to strive and achieve their dreams in life.



Amanda Vania and Andrea Vania ***Founders of Andara***

ANDARA was established in December 2020. The name of this clothing brand, ANDARA, means the light of beauty. We named our business hoping that ANDARA will bring out the shine of women's beauty by providing comfortable and stylish clothes. We targeted women from 17-25 years old. We connect with our customers online and create a promotional plan that takes advantage of social media to shape the conversation, build loyalty, and attracts new customers or partners. We always try to make valuable content with high-quality pictures and editorial to give them a good experience and also to add value to our brand. We also observe our customers' interest through our social media to know what they attract these days so we can easily adapt to the new trend.



Adrian Sugandhi ***founder, Sonicboom Indonesia***

Adrian Sugandhi is an entrepreneur in the tech industry with experience for more than 15 years in the industry across US and Indonesia. Currently, Adrian is the CEO and Co-Founder of Sonicboom Indonesia, a tech startup based in Jakarta, Indonesia, since 2018.

Adrian has also co-founded 2 other tech companies in various industries including sports and software companies that helps companies to digitize their businesses. Adrian previous experience also includes 7 years of experience as Senior Engineer at Broadcom Corporation in the USA and 3 years helping a team of researchers for DARPA Grand Challenge. He also graduated BS & MS in Computer Science and MS in Financial Engineering.

What Next? Australia-ASEAN Entrepreneur Roundtables



Shinny Chia

Co-founder, The Collective Art Events

I am an entrepreneur and the co-founder of The Collective Art Events, one of Brunei's pioneering forces in the Creative Industries, as well as The Wildflower Cafe and The Makerspace, Brunei's first public creative workspace. I am also one of the founding partners of Community for Brunei, a BIBD CSR platform aimed at uniting and democratising NGO's and charitable causes/ activities across the nation.

I am very passionate about community building, and creativity as a force for change. My areas of interest for community work are primarily surrounding gender equality, animal rights, freedom of expression, and environmentalism.

The Collective has worked on numerous events that aim to showcase arts and social causes in Brunei over the last 5 years.



Nazurah Usop

Artist, doodlesandcolors

Nazurah Usop who goes by the pseudonym 'doodlesandcolors', is a visual artist and activist who explores expressions through shapes and colourful interpretations. She is also best described as an experimental, processed based abstract artist and enjoys adding a unique perspective to her work in hopes of making each piece memorable.

Not only is she passionate in the arts, she also has high interests with human rights issues, specifically on the issues of the LGBT community.



Myanmar Speakers Anonymised (2)

We anonymised the speakers due to the current political situation in Myanmar and out of concern for the speakers' safety.

What Next? Australia-ASEAN Entrepreneur Roundtables

Quotes

"Everything starts from digital. Everything starts from there. And it trickles down to everything else. If we can get the right angle to come in, the right story to come in, there's still so much opportunity [for our business]."

- Adrian Sugandhi, Sonicboom, Indonesia

"Because we are Hijabis, we want to provide pretty clothes that can unite other Hijabis around the world. That's what I dream of."

- Amanda Vania and Andrea Vania, Andara, Indonesia

"We hope to cross the border and be able to do more work in the Asia Pacific region, including with Australia. Up until recently, Australia was seen as a bit of a foreign land. I think we're seeing that change more as events like these are happening or more people are coming over... Those cultural exchanges really give people the opportunity to connect with each other and see how yeah, we're the same, but we're different, and I think there's a lot of opportunity for us to go both ways whether in creative industries or different industries here."

- Shinnny Chia, Co-Founder, The Collective Art Events, Brunei



"Events that help you network and connect with people of other cultures. The ideas you get, one session can spark that idea. I've learned things that were never taught in the Philippines. And going to these countries you can see how people live, and that can really open your mind to so many things that you can do for yourself, for your people, that no matter how hard you try in your home country, in your home town, you would just never have that environment to be able to think of those ideas."

- Angel Abellana, Phenomenal Filipina, Philippines

"[What would help us most is] support and funding, or any grant - because even though we have the research, how can we actualise the research? Especially for us, we are working with artisans who need to get paid, we need support to make something that is an alpha base product."

- Wilson Limon Jr, Founder, NIÑOFRANCO, Philippines

What Next? Australia-ASEAN Entrepreneur Roundtables

"In my business I am planning to look for investment. At the same time I work with a local trading company who are interested in buying the products from the farmers after processing and they will be a whole brand with a cooperative group in the North. We want to promote one or two particular products and do the branding and marketing and we aim to export to Vietnam, where we have a very good market.

We are looking at Australia as well. I know the quality of passionfruit there is not better than here. I want some Australian partners to promote agriculture in Laos. People trust Australian products, I want the same in Laos. I want to see Laos products in international markets."

- Toomkham Phoungmachan, Business Development Consultant, Laos



"I dream to see the fairer power distribution, power in decision making and in life, at the national level and in the world. I want to see people producing the technology or internet for fairer real distribution [of power], and I dream to see the people accessing the global economy without a middleman. It is important for people no matter where they live, what language they speak, to connect and trust each other and can support each other or exchange resources."

- Wipaphan Nana Wongsawang, ThaiConsent, Thailand

"What I want is more humans definitely! Recruiting experts - my marketing person, accountant, sales manager, product development person, all the administration work. My assistant is from an ethnic minority group and my kitchen staff are from ethnic minority groups and all women. Once I have the experts to focus on the business side of my companies I can focus on training my assistant because she's amazing, she's a single Mum. And to get mentoring for myself to train to be a better leader and let my leadership skills shine so I can come back to my company and help my employees as well."

- Anna Viravong, Wine Haus Laos, Laos

"You need to apply for the government to allow you to run any activity so I think this [new law] will kill all the work on the ground played by the marginalised groups and this is an early crisis for us but on the other hand we thought this will maybe be the other chance for us - [producing these handwoven textiles and garments] is an opportunity for us to try to make [paid work] possible for the indigenous women [through a non-profit organisation]. I see this as the turning point from inequalities to equalities. "

- Matcha Phorn-In , Sangsan Anakot Yaowachon, Thailand

What Next? Australia-ASEAN Entrepreneur Roundtables

We're hoping to be the biggest arts centre in South East Asia so that people can visit us and join in. To bring in artists to share with the young Cambodians. The bigger dream, we want everyone to get success and host all the people coming from different countries to share the dream and create together.

- Kek Soon, Fish Island Arts Centre, Cambodia

"We want to continue growing so we can support women like Soon [. She's driving so many solutions, looking after so many people and trying to help her community recover. We want to scale up and support as many women as possible to do that.

[Women's] businesses tend to be smaller, more community focused, but they are literally the ones who are driving any economy and we need to really properly invest in them because in the years to come, they are going to be the ones who are helping us recover from this. It's not going to be the huge companies who are going to make it happen, it will be the micro to small informal economy that employs the majority of people across the region.

- Celia Boyd, SHE Investments, Cambodia



"I'm going to keep creating and I'm going to keep having discussions about the [LGBT] community, and hopefully in 20 or 30 years, there won't be any internal fear anymore around this conversation we'll be having. That will be the dream, basically. Hopefully we'll also be able to have a solid platform that caters to the LGBT people as well. I couldn't see myself having this conversation even online with anyone else in the region even in the past few years, but only now that we get a lot of people within the region having this conversation, it's going, it's going ever so slowly, but it's going."

- Nazurah Usop, Artist, doodlesandcolors, Brunei

"We would love to have more artisans. Not just in Manila but all throughout the Philippines. I just started my home accessory line, and eventually be able to launch our furniture line. So we want to empower women by giving them the chance to earn and provide the basic needs of their family. That is why, we need to keep on innovating. And for now we focus on export."

- Wilson Limon Jr, Founder, NIñOFRANCO, Philippines



About Social Good Outpost

Social Good Outpost (SGO) is an Australian strategic and creative communications studio involved in research, strategy and curation of international diplomacy programs and influential communications and creative campaigns. Founded in 2016 by two sisters, Lara Stephenson and Dr Elise Stephenson, Social Good Outpost is a women-led team, and proudly brings a young approach to this diplomacy program. SGO 'Curates' leads our public projects, creative diplomacy, strategy and events implementation. (for more, visit www.socialgoodoutpost.com/curates)

We're social entrepreneurs, designers, researchers and strategists who have fallen progressively more in love with the ASEAN region and its people, so we bring a lived commitment to developing Australia-ASEAN enterprise and leadership, with a particular focus on empowering women, LGBTIQ+ and connecting with and supporting Indigenous and ethnic minority communities.

- Communications and Design: www.socialgoodoutpost.com
- Curation and Public Diplomacy: www.socialgoodoutpost.com/curates



Lara Stephenson



Dr Elise Stephenson



Young Entrepreneurs & Leaders Speaker Series

2020 - 2021 Digital
Delegations Program

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Australian Government



AAC
AUSTRALIA-ASEAN COUNCIL
BRIDGING TOGETHER THE BENEFITS OF
AUSTRALIA AND SOUTHEAST ASIA



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