



PRESS RELEASE

To be Released on 28 August 2018

EMPOWER STUDENTS TO POSITIVELY INFLUENCE THE DEVELOPMENT OF AN ASEAN IDENTITY

Yangon, 28 August 2018 – Today, the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), the Ministry of Education (MOE) Myanmar, and the European Union (EU) jointly organise the Second ASEAN Student Mobility Forum in Yangon. The aim of this forum is to empower participating students to positively influence the development of an ASEAN identity in all ASEAN Member States through mobility programmes that enable students to experience life and study in another country. The Second ASEAN Student Mobility Forum brings together about 175 participants, including 130 ASEAN students who have been recipients of any of the following: (i) a SHARE scholarship in ASEAN institutions, (ii) the ASEAN International Mobility for Students (AIMS) by SEAMEO RIHED¹, or (iii) student mobility programmes of the ASEAN University Network (AUN), as well as students who participated in the EU's flagship student mobility programme ERASMUS². Other participating students include those who have been part of other academic mobility programmes both within and outside the ASEAN region, as well as some who have not yet had the opportunity. The forum is primarily led by students. Discussions will revolve on the manifold benefits of student mobility for the students' personal lives, for their home and host institutions, the communities to which they belong, and the Member States of ASEAN.

¹ Southeast Asian Ministers of Education Organization Centre specializing in regional higher education development

²ERASMUS+ is the European Union's programme to support education, training, youth and sport in Europe. Its budget of €14.7 billion provides opportunities to study, train, gain experience, and volunteer abroad.





Minister of Education Myanmar, H.E. Myo Thein Gyi highlighted that “the thematic focus of this forum is student mobility because this is an important element to the development of ASEAN and its member states. Nowadays, student and labour mobility is seen as a critical factor for global competitiveness, and to grow talent and human capital for economic and social developments. Internationalisation through an agreed credit transfer system and student mobility bring benefits for countries and the ASEAN region through its impact on the economy, innovation and human resources.”

H.E. Kristian Schmidt, the EU Ambassador to Myanmar, pointed to the EU’s own positive experiences with student exchange and international cooperation in higher education: "Student exchange scholarships and partnerships between Europe's universities have boosted the quality of higher education in the EU. Through the ERASMUS programme, nine million students, youth and academics have lived, studied and trained abroad over the past 30 years. Imagine how this helps to promote unity and improve mutual understanding! Through SHARE, the EU is sharing this positive experience with the ASEAN community. Helping to create Southeast Asia's own student network, this forum in Yangon will bring together students from Myanmar and all over Southeast-Asia."

Director Ky-Anh Nguyen of the Sustainable Development Directorate of ASEAN, expounded on the role of young people in building the ASEAN Community saying, “young people and students are key in ASEAN’s ambitions in building people-to-people connectivity and are important contributors to the evolving ASEAN community.” In addition, he encouraged the students to learn from each other and share their experiences about what it’s like to see firsthand the great diversity and similarities among the ten countries of ASEAN. He expressed his hope that ASEAN students and youth begin to think of themselves not only as nationals of their own country, but also as full-fledged members of the ASEAN community.





The Forum is part of SHARE's continuing series of Policy Dialogue events, with which the programme supports the emerging ASEAN Higher Education Area by engaging with policymakers, universities and students.

Through the SHARE Scholarship Scheme, Myanmar has so far sent out 148 students to study in other ASEAN countries and is hosting 17 students in 3 Myanmar universities. There is no other ASEAN Member States sending as many students abroad under SHARE as Myanmar.

ABOUT SHARE

The SHARE programme is co-funded by the EU. ASEAN and EU have jointly designed SHARE to support ASEAN's vision to build an ASEAN Higher Education Area, to strengthen regional cooperation, enhance the quality, competitiveness and internationalisation of ASEAN higher education institutions and students, and thereby to contribute to a people-centred ASEAN Community. On this journey, SHARE provides ASEAN with relevant experience and expertise from the European Higher Education Area; and builds on best practice and existing platforms of the region and the ASEAN Member States.





For media inquiries, please contact:

- **SHARE**

Elita Yunanda, Tel.: +62 21 29333470 ext. 321,

Email: elita.yunanda@britishcouncil.or.id

- **Delegation of the European Union to Myanmar**

Valerie ZIRL, Tel.: +95 (0)1 230 56 – 50

Email: valerie.zirl@eeas.europa.eu

- **Department of Higher Education, Ministry of Education, Myanmar**

Ms. Nn Win, Tel.: +95 9263610345, E-mail: nnwin29@gmail.com

