

# Southeast Asia Youth Network - SEAYN



[Progress report / South East Asia](#) /September 2021

## Introduction

The Southeast Asia Youth Network (SEAYN) is an official platform created and endorsed by the Red Cross Red Crescent Leadership of the Southeast Asia National Societies to enable the youth to interact and generate new ideas, concepts, approaches, tools, campaigns, and projects to advance youth engagement in the region. SEAYN serves to provide a crucial link and opportunities for the SEA Youth to connect and strengthen their Humanitarian Action by sharing best practices with their peers within and beyond the movement at a global scale. It is also a sub-network linked to a region-wide platform, the Asia Pacific Youth Network (APYN), which connects youth leaders from the whole Asia Pacific Region (APYN is currently undergoing a revitalization process driven by the four sub-regional networks including SEAYN as for September 2021).

SEAYN has a special characteristic as a youth network: it ensures equal participation of National Societies Youth Focal Staff and Youth Leaders/Volunteers. Each SEA National Society supports and commits to SEAYN by nominating one NS Youth Focal staff and one Youth Leader/Volunteer to be SEAYN Members.

The SEAYN Terms of Reference (ToR) was officially endorsed at the Southeast Asia Leadership Meeting held in Singapore in March 2014 (first revision in 2017, second revision in 2020 – [available on SEAYN webpage](#)).

After three years of inactivity, SEAYN was successfully revitalized in March 2020, following its prioritization in the RCRC Southeast Asia Leadership Meeting held in October 2019.

In COVID-19 pandemic context, the Network has been particularly active in providing immediate support to the members as platform to share information and ideas for youth-led initiative in COVID-19 prevention and response. The network also worked to support the mental wellbeing of the young front-liners and of the youth isolated at home as well as to develop communications strategies to prevent stigma, discrimination, and the rise of SGBV. More about the initiatives and material developed during the first months of the pandemic can be found on the [SEAYN&COVID-19 page](#) and [SEAYN Facebook page](#).

## Key progress in 2021

- In February 2021, a Micro-funding Initiative for Youth-Led Initiatives – the *SEAYN Call for Proposals: Promoting Ownership, Empowering Youth in Red Cross Red Crescent National Societies* – was launched. The initiative aims at empowering the RCRC youth of Southeast Asia by providing them with a concrete opportunity to conceptualise and implement projects that will benefit vulnerable communities in their countries and/or in the Southeast Asia region.

The Youth Teams have been accompanied in learning about the whole cycle of Project Management through a series of workshops and ad-hoc mentoring/feedback sessions. Additional capacity-building thematic workshops on Climate Change and MHPSS have been organised to support the Youth Teams implementing actions in these fields.



The projects proposals fall into the thematic areas for youth engagement which were proposed by the SEA Leaders in the latest Leadership Meeting (Oct 2020) and the IFRC Youth Commission’s priorities: digitalization, innovation, blood donation, MHPSS, climate change action.

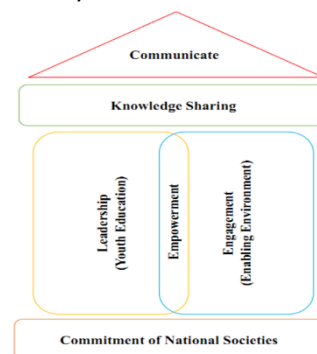
A total of 15 projects (2 regional projects and 13 national projects) were selected and funded under the SEAYN Call for Proposal:

- Cambodian Red Cross: 1 national project – Climate Change Action
- Lao Red Cross: 1 national project – MHPSS
- Malaysian Red Crescent Society: 2 national projects, participating in 1 regional project – Innovation, Digitalisation, MHPSS and Climate Change Action
- Philippine Red Cross: 4 national projects, leading on 1 regional project, participating in 1 regional project – Innovation, Digitalisation, Health Promotion and MHPSS, Climate Change Action, Blood Donation
- PMI: 3 national projects, participating in 1 regional project – Innovation, Digitalisation, Health Promotion and MHPSS, Climate Change Action, Blood Donation
- Singapore Red Cross: 1 national project, leading on 1 regional project, participating in 1 regional project – Innovation, Digitalisation, MHPSS, Climate Change Action, Blood Donation
- Timor-Leste Red Cross: 1 national project – Climate Change Action
- Organisation of the 7<sup>th</sup> SEAYN Annual Meeting (online event held on 7<sup>th</sup> April) with endorsement of the new SEAYN Coordination Team composed of:
  - Chair: Pham Hai Nam (VNRC)
  - Supporting Member of the Chair: Tran Thu Hang (VNRC)
  - Co-Chair: Cheng Yang Chong (Malaysian RCS) – elected member
  - Vice Chairs: Hsu Mon Kyaw Tint and Wai Yam Shin (Myanmar RC)
  - Officers: Trinuch Suntikol and Phatteeaya Yongsanguanchai (Thai RCS)

- Approval and implementation of SEAYN Action Plan 2021-2022.

The Plan focuses on Youth as Leaders, Volunteers and Members of the Affected Communities according to the IFRC Youth Engagement Strategy and it includes five (5) broad sections with all SEAYN representatives collaborating closely in different working groups as follows:

- Commitment of National Societies (Representation, Financial Stability): all National Societies



- Leadership (Youth Education + Youth Empowerment): Singapore Red Cross Society (technical lead), Thai Red Cross Society (co-lead, report to CT), Timor-Leste Red Cross Society
  - ➔ Purpose: To educate, equip, and empower youths to become leaders of humanitarian action
  - ➔ Activities and Targets 2021/2022: 1. Continue the collaboration with EAYN to produce the Case Study on RCRC Education Programmes in schools (to be published by December 2021); 2. Organise at least one sharing session within SEAYN
- Engagement (Enabling Environments + Youth Empowerment): Cambodian Red Cross Society, Lao Red Cross, Myanmar Red Cross Society (lead), Philippine Red Cross, Thai Red Cross Society
  - ➔ Activities 2021/2022: 1. Provide peer-to-peer support and exchange of best practices on the implementation of the Youth Engagement Self-Assessment; 2. Create a common database where to collect Youth Policies, Youth Engagement Strategies and Volunteering Policies of RCRC SEA National Societies
  - ➔ Targets 2021/2022: 1. One sharing session on the (online) piloting of Youth Engagement Self-Assessment Toolkit; 2. One database created (each NS provides a summary in English!)
- Knowledge Sharing: Brunei Darussalam Red Crescent Society, Palang Merah Indonesia, Philippine Red Cross, Singapore Red Cross, Viet Nam Red Cross Society (lead)
  - ➔ Activities and Targets 2021/2022: 1. Produce 1-2 monthly short article(s) to be added in SEA monthly newsletters. (NSs will be chosen on a rotation basis); 2. Produce 1 mid-term report highlighting youth activities (expected to complete by mid-October, 6 months after the SEAYN annual meeting); 3. Produce 1 end-of-term report highlighting youth activities of the left 6 months (from October 2021 to April 2022); 4. Produce any ad hoc publications (if necessary); 5. Organize 1 internal sharing session
- Communicate: Malaysian Red Crescent Society (lead), Philippine Red Cross, Viet Nam Red Cross Society, Supported by Jevlin Solim (PMI)
  - ➔ Activities 2021/2022: 1. Cross postings to promote SEA NSes youth activities; 2. Promote SEAYN activities/region's initiatives; 3. Commemorate RC / youth related day; 4. Propose interesting content/communication initiatives; 5. Any ad hoc communication request/needs
  - ➔ Targets 2021/2022: 1. Frequency of scheduled postings: 2-3 postings/weekly; 2. Target of page likes: 1,800 likes; 3. To organise communications activities for youth
- Continuous support to the revitalisation of the Asia Pacific Youth Network (APYN); participation in the inter-network regional youth activities such as the RCRC Asia Pacific Youth Café with active

delivery of sessions and technical support to regional webinar and workshops (e.g. on CEA and COVID-19 vaccine).

### Key recommendations

- The Network proved to be relevant to its members as valuable platform for capacity building and best practice exchange but, to keep performing its functions, it is necessary for it to remain one of the priority networks recognised and supported by the RCRC SEA Leaders.
- The sustainability of the Network heavily depends on the commitment of its members, both in terms of National Societies' representation/active participation and financial independence. With the Leaders prioritisation of the Network, each National Society commits to appoint motivated representatives that can also report back to their National Societies on their involvement in the Network on a regular basis.
- We call on the leaders to continue to support youth leadership in submission of proposals to youth grants and recognise the engagement and accountability demonstrated by the youth leaders in acting as decision-makers, managers and implementers at national and regional level.
- We call for the Leaders support in ensuring that such youth representation is formally included in each National Society Statute and Youth Policy, upon a consultation with the youth on the status of Youth Engagement in the National Society. Together, by the end of 2022, we can aim at having all eleven SEA National Societies with
  - youth-led structures representing the youth volunteers at branch, provincial and national levels.
  - youth representatives in the National Society's governing board.
  - updated Youth Policies, Youth Engagement Strategies and Volunteering Policies.

### Summary plans for 2022

- Complete the implementation of SEAYN Action Plan 2021/2022 as detailed above
- Organisation of the 8<sup>th</sup> SEAYN Annual Meeting with appointment of the new Coordination Team: SEAYN current Coordination Team commits to ensuring a smooth rotation among the National Societies and the continuity of the Network
- Drafting and approval of SEAYN Action Plan 2022/2023, following the direction of the Leadership, priorities of the new Coordination Team and needs of the National Societies.
- Further strengthen the pool of youth leaders, YABC facilitators, youth trained in specific thematic areas (School Safety and Climate Change, Health Promotion including MHPSS, Promotion of a culture of non-violence including SGBV prevention Road Safety

### Contact information

*SEAYN Chair (RCRC Youth Leader)*

**Pham Hai Nam**, Viet Nam Red Cross Society, [hainamphamdav@gmail.com](mailto:hainamphamdav@gmail.com)

*SEAYN Co-Chair (RCRC Youth Leader)*

**Cheng Yang Chong**, Malaysian Red Crescent Society, [chengyang@redcrescent.org.my](mailto:chengyang@redcrescent.org.my)

*IFRC Secretariat support to the network*

**Francesca Capoluongo**, Youth and Volunteering Delegate for Southeast Asia and ASEAN Cooperation (SEAYN Secretariat), CCD Bangkok, [francesca.capoluongo@ifrc.org](mailto:francesca.capoluongo@ifrc.org)

