

## **The Japanese Foreign Minister's Commendation for SSEAYP International Singapore (SIS)**

On 26<sup>th</sup>-29<sup>th</sup> November 2016, Nippon Maru of Ship for Southeast Asian and Japanese Youth Program (SSEAYP) will call on Singapore for the first time in 3 years. In accordance with this call, The Government of Japan was to confer the "The Japanese Foreign Minister's Commendation" to SSEAYP International Singapore (SIS) on 26<sup>th</sup> November 2016. This commendation is presented to SIS for their significant contributions to the promotion of friendship between Japan and Singapore through their support for SSEAYP and to the sharing of Japanese culture with more people through post SSEAYP activities for many years.

In 1979, SAS (SSEAYP Alumni Singapore) was established under the National Youth Co-ordinating Committee (NYCC). In 1987, Alumni Association of ASEAN and Japan decided to formalize their relationship and establish a coalition council known as SSEAYP International (SIS became the member of SSEAYP International). SIS has played active role in the local country programme of SSEAYP whenever ship calls on Singapore. In particular, SIS has been assisting the operation of SSEAYP, such as the arrangements of calling port activities, accepting homestay, conducting welcoming receptions, etc.. As the daily grassroots activities, SIS also cooperated in social contribution activities in various parts of Singapore and other countries.

The Foreign Minister's Commendations are awarded to those who have rendered distinguished service in promoting friendly relations between Japan and foreign countries. Since its introduction in 1984, the Foreign Minister's Commendations have been awarded to seventeen Singapore related individuals and organizations.

## **SSEAYP International Singapore (SIS)**

In 1979, SAS (SSEAYP Alumni Singapore) was established under the National Youth Coordinating Committee (NYCC). In 1987, Alumni Association of ASEAN and Japan decided to formalize their relationship and establish a coalition council known as SSEAYP International. All ASEAN and Japan Alumni Association including SIS is a member of SSEAYP International.

Objectives of SIS are 1) To promote social interaction among the former Singapore participants of SSEAYP, 2) To maintain liaison with similar alumni associations and youth associations in other ASEAN countries and Japan, and 3) To arrange exchange programmes in order to promote friendship and mutual understanding among the youth of ASEAN countries and Japan.

SIS has played active role in the local country programme of SSEAYP whenever ship calls on Singapore. In particular, SIS has been assisting the operation of SSEAYP, such as the arrangements of calling port activities, accepting homestay, conducting welcoming receptions, etc.. Every year since 1996, SIS has been sending the alumni member as a national leader (organizer of participants). As a daily grassroots activity, SIS also cooperated in social contribution activities in various parts of Singapore and other countries. On 28 November 2013, SIS became a registered society under Registry of Societies, Singapore.

### **(Reference)**

#### **Ship for Southeast Asian and Japanese Youth Program (SSEAYP)**

SSEAYP is the youth international exchange program between Japan and ASEAN countries sponsored by the Japanese Government. It has been conducting annually from October to December every year since 1974. This year marks its 43<sup>rd</sup> year.

As more than 300 youths from Japan and 10 ASEAN countries are aboard the SSEAYP to live together, they introduce and discuss the circumstances of each country, and also exchange through various activities in the ship and visited countries. By doing these activities, SSEAYP is aiming to promote friendship and mutual understanding among the youth of ASEAN and Japan, to broaden international understanding among young people, to cultivate the spirit of international cooperation, to improve the efficacy of international cooperation, to nurture the next generation of leaders in an international platform and to cooperate to social contribution activities by the youth.

Singapore is one of the SSEAYP participating countries (Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore and Thailand) since its inception. The host institution in Singapore is the National Youth Council (NYC). This year, from November 26 to 29, SSEAYP will call on Singapore for the first time in 3 years since 2013.