ASEAN-India Youth Summit in February 2019

Commemorating 25 years of relations between India and ASEAN, India Foundation successfully organised the first India-ASEAN Youth Summit from 14-19 August, 2017 in Bhopal, India. The Summit, with the theme "Shared Values, Common Destiny" witnessed a significant participation of youths from all 10 ASEAN Countries and India. It aptly reflected the close cultural and civilizational links that India and South East Asia have enjoyed over two millennia.

To take forward and further strengthen India-ASEAN ties, India Foundation and Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India (MEA) organized the second leg of ASEAN-India Youth Summit on the theme "Connectivity - Pathway to Shared Prosperity." This 2nd edition hosted the ASEAN-India Youth Summit in Guwahati, Assam from 03-07 February, 2019. Like the previous summit, this summit in Guwahati also had youth delegates from all the 10 ASEAN countries and India.

After constituting Town Official Language Committee in Singapore, Honorable Minister of State, Home Affairs, India, Mr Kiren Rijiju and his delegation visited Centre for Language Studies, NUS on 17th January 2019 to interact with students who are learning Hindi. He was really impressed to see the enthusiasm and love towards the language.

Thus two of our students who are learning Hindi at the Centre for Language Studies, NUS were invited by the High commission of India, Singapore, to represent Singapore at the ASEAN- India Youth Summit 2019.
Saddiq Basha B Cekendar Basha (Faculty of Arts & Social Sciences)

My experience during the ASEAN-India Youth Summit can be summed up with one word- refreshing. Not only did I learn about new cultures and meet people from diverse backgrounds, but I was also exposed to a multitude of ideas. By listening to the youths from India as well as other ASEAN countries, I learned more about their local grassroots movement and how the youths indeed have the power to make changes in society. This event allowed us to share our experiences as well as learn from the experience of others. Furthermore not forgetting that I got the opportunity to practice my Hindi language. Being able to barter in the local bazaars with the shopkeepers or something as simple as buying one's meal has become such a learning experience. To me, these interactions highlights the importance of language as a key to culture and in some instances, I genuinely felt that I was a part of the place.

Elston Aw Yu Xuan (Multi-Disciplinary Programme)

This trip was an eye-opening experience and it helped me broaden my perspective of the world. The summit was very useful as speakers from different parts of India were invited to share their experiences on topics that were relevant to youths around my age. These speakers were very knowledgeable in their field, and it helped to broaden my narrow perspective on the topics they were discussing about. One such topic was on entrepreneurship, and the speaker shared with us about his entrepreneurship experience. As his experience would be very different from the people that I spoke to from Singapore, I felt that it was very refreshing to hear from a different perspective. It was interesting to be able to hear their different ideas and cultures. This summit allowed us to connect with each other, share our personal experiences, through this summit, I also got to learn a bit about the Indian culture and traditions, which was relevant to me, as I could put into context some of my Hindi lessons.