

## **Young Diplomats Conclave – Shared Aspirations; Strengthened India-ASEAN Relations**

### Concept Note

#### **Executive Summary**

Young Diplomats' Conclave (YDC) focusses on expanding the horizons of diplomatic conduct by engaging with young diplomats and next-generation leaders, in spearheading the future of India – ASEAN relations.

With the aim of fostering dialogue on the vibrant yet multi-layered cultural and policy landscape in India and ASEAN, YDC provides a platform to familiarize with worldviews and deliberate on mutually beneficial mechanisms of cooperation.

#### **Background**

As India and ASEAN observe 25 years of Dialogue Partnership, the ambit of diplomatic engagement has expanded multifold.

The ASEAN-India Plan of Action (2016-2020) has identified three priority areas of Culture, Commerce and Connectivity (3Cs). Further, trade between India and ASEAN accounting for nearly \$80 billion today, is largely conducted through maritime networks, located at strategic crossroads in the Indo-Pacific. Presence of belligerent nations, pose a major threat to the security architecture in the region. This has led to realization of shared aspirations of achieving peace and prosperity in the South and Southeast Asian region.

New Delhi's unprecedented diplomatic move of inviting the leaders of all ten ASEAN nations\* for Republic Day celebrations, was also followed by the signing of the Delhi Declaration. This has necessitated a dynamic, comprehensive and holistic engagement between India and ASEAN. It entails a deeper understanding and appreciation of shared values, cultures and history. In the wake of above, it is imperative to expand the circle of diplomatic interactions to include next generation diplomats so as to train them to effectively understand, engage and appreciate the rich legacy of past and leverage it to expand the horizons of Indo-ASEAN relationship

#### **Where YDC does fits in?**

The Young Diplomats Conclave (YDC), as a part of VIF's initiative – Global Young Achievers' Network (GYAN), is an attempt to build lasting relations with future political leaders and international diplomatic community. In doing so, YDC aims at cultivating an environment to pursue mutually beneficial foreign policy interests rooted in cultural understanding and shared global aspirations. Through a series of roundtables, YDC will bring to forefront the rising trends in diplomacy, provide a platform for strengthening people-to-people relations, and facilitate interactions between diplomats, as representatives of their countries, and their Indian counterparts.

A second in series, this YDC focuses on giving a bird's eye view of India's policy and cultural landscape to young ASEAN diplomats, thus serving as a bridge for them to understand India - its cultural traditions, socioeconomic practices and governance institutions within the ambit of Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam.

The Young Diplomats Conclave is scheduled as follows.

- Date: 20th November, 2018
- Time: 15:30 – 18:30
- Place: Nehru Memorial Museum and Library, New Delhi (tentative)

*\*ASEAN consist of ten nations namely Indonesia, Singapore, Philippines, Thailand, Vietnam, Malaysia, Myanmar, Cambodia, Laos and Brunei*

### Global: Young Achievers' Network (GYAN)

The Global Young Achievers' Network (GYAN), a flagship initiative of Vision India Foundation, aims to identify and connect young, motivated change-makers and next-generation leaders from around the globe with India. The underlying idea is to understand and expand upon India's relations with the world and thus foster lasting linkages on the principles of friendship, trust and mutually beneficial developmental goals. GYAN, through its various programmes aims to prepare a global leadership committed towards leading communities and connect with like-minded individuals and organizations to achieve the shared aspirations of peace and prosperity in the global world order.

### Young Diplomats Conclave

The first edition of *Young Diplomats Conclave: Indian Unbound*, in 2017, saw participation of diplomats from 12 countries including Mexico, the US, Vietnam and EU and hosted several speakers including Amb Kanwal Sibal, Sh. Vinay Sahasrabudde, Amb.Asoke Mukerjee and Prof. Sreeram Chaulia of Jindal School of International Affairs. The focus of the first edition was to introduce India's sociocultural, political and economic fabric to the young diplomats. The second edition will delve deeper into one of India's strongest foreign engagement – ASEAN, with the aim of building lasting cooperation.

### About Vision India Foundation

VIF was founded in 2014 by the faculty and the alumnus of IIT. Its mission is to bring systemic reforms in India which align with the nation's aspirations and ethos through youth development. Steps for these long-term reforms include working on public policy, governance and on the institutional framework of the nation. The organization focuses on engaging with the youth who are mentored through VIF's various flagship programs like the Policy Boot Camp, Good Governance Yatra, World Governance Expedition and Change Agents Network to become better future leaders.