



Young Diplomats Conclave: Energizing Indo-ASEAN Ties

Concept Note

Executive Summary

Young Diplomats' Conclave (YDC) focuses 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 fits in?

The Young Diplomats Conclave (YDC), 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: 17th January 2019
- Time: 14:00-18:00
- Place: G Parthasarthy Hall, RIS, India Habitat Centre, New Delhi

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