The ASEF Young Leaders Summit (ASEFYLS) is a Youth platform that connects young people with the Decision-Makers and Leaders from Asian & European countries.

The 5th ASEF Young Leaders Summit (ASEFYLS5) takes place from August to December 2023. It focuses on the theme of ‘Leadership in Society 5.0’ and incorporates 3 spheres for youth leadership: 1) self-leadership (you), 2) team leadership (we) and 3) societal leadership (all).

The 5th edition was a hybrid project with collaborative elements taking place online and in Salamanca, Spain.

KEY OBJECTIVES OF THE PROJECT

- **EXPAND KNOWLEDGE**
  Enhance understanding of Society 5.0 and leadership.

- **STIMULATE COLLABORATIVE INNOVATION**
  Work with peers in diverse groups, play their role in leading for Society 5.0, transforming their ideas into concrete actions.

- **EMPOWER YOUTH**
  Be part of a wider youth community for cross-regional exchange and represent the youth voice across Asia and Europe.

KEY FACTS

**Dates, 2023**
- Navigators Training
  21-26 June
  [Singapore]
- Knowledge Building
  August
  [Online]
- Youth Summit
  12-16 September
  [Salamanca, Spain]
- Leadership in Action
  September – December
  [Online]

**Participants**
- 99 participants with 83% completion rate

**Resource Persons**
- 53 resource persons including Speakers and Facilitators
HIGHLIGHTS & KEY STATISTICS

- **152** Participants & Resource Persons involved
- **8,500+** Applicants from 51 countries
- **4** Months of participant engagement
- **1,195,310** Social media reach
- **10** Leadership in Action solutions proposed to solve real-world challenges participants
- **99%** would recommend ASEFYLS or other ASEF projects to a friend

An overview of the Participants’ Booklet is available here, and the Resource Persons and Organisers Booklet is available here.

PROGRAMME STRUCTURE

ASEFYLS5 was organised online, in Singapore and in Salamanca, Spain between 21 June – 5 December 2023, with 4 phases:

**Navigators Training: 21 – 26 June 2023 | Singapore**

20 selected young professionals and students from Asia and Europe (Alumni of ASEF Edu and Partner organisations) joined an in-depth training on leadership, team collaboration, and design thinking, in preparation to take on the role of ‘Navigators’ in the subsequent phases.

Highlights of the programme included:
- Workshops, Presentations & Roundtable discussions with experts from the Center for Creative Leadership, NEC Asia Pacific Pte Ltd, Ministry of Communications and Information (MCI), Social Impact Catalyst, and Singapore Education Network
- Dialogue with members of ASEF’s Board of Governors and diplomatic representatives from Australia, Belgium, Czech Republic, Hungary, Pakistan, Sweden, and Switzerland

**Knowledge Building Phase: August 2023 | Online**

99 Participants and Navigators joined live trainings, workshops, and peer-to-peer exploration to deepen their understanding of Asia-Europe relations, Leadership and Society 5.0. As part of the programme, they completed individual tasks, and received extra resources for self-paced learning.

Highlights included:
- Leadership training from the Center for Creative Leadership
- Presentations & Discussions with experts from The Lisbon Council for Economic Competitiveness and Social Renewal, NEC Asia Pacific, Koi TU: The Centre for Informed Futures, University of Auckland and the School of Biomedical Sciences at the University of West London
Youth Summit: **12 – 16 September 2023 | Salamanca, Spain**

The Youth Summit brought everyone together to engage in people-people dialogue exchanges, networking and learning in a local context. The programme included expert speakers, dialogues with Ambassadors and Members of the European Parliament, as well as cultural exchange.

Highlights included:

- **Keynotes by Prof. Yuko HARAYAMA (Professor Emeritus at Tohoku University; former Executive Director at RIKEN in Charge of International Affairs, Japan), and Dr Lampros STERGIOULAS (UNESCO Chair on Artificial Intelligence and Data Science for Society)**
- **Dialogue with Ambassadors on Society 5.0 Leadership Dilemmas in different country contexts, with Ambassadors from Malaysia, Australia, Spain and Japan**
- **Panels with Experts speakers from IE Business School, Ministry of Communications and Information Singapore, European Students’ Union, Spanish Scientific Council, UN SDSN Youth, UNESCO, ASEAN Youth Organization, AEGEE, Global Students’ Forum, UNESCO MGIEP, ASEAN Cham EU, Insight Centre for Data Analytics, SciTech DiploHub, Brussels Diplomatic Academy, European Space Agency, Spanish Exporters and Investors Club, Alumni Salamanca, España Mejor,**
- **Senior-Junior Leaders Dialogue on Policy & Decision-making for the Future of Society & Technology, with Mr. Antonio LOPEZ-ISTURIZ White (MEP), Dr. Victor NEGRESCU (MEP) and Mr. Antoine RIPOLL (Director, Parliamentary Relations with South East Asia, European Parliament)**

**Leadership in Action: September – December | Online**

Participants moved from theory to action and collaboratively worked on finding solutions for 10 real-world challenges set by private companies, international organisations and non-profits.

The participants worked with the following Challenge Owners:

1. Mr. Shuvro SEN, DBS Bank
2. Mr. Mayank SHARMA, UNESCO Mahatma Gandhi Institute of Education for Peace and Sustainable Development, India
3. Ms. Cathy FRIDERES, Pricewaterhouse Coopers (PwC) Luxembourg
4. Mr. Francesco PANGALANGAN, International Committee of the Red Cross, Switzerland
5. Mr. Michal BRICHTA, Slovak Space Office, Slovakia
6. Ms. Keopanya SENGSOUVING, Pakse Youth’s Power, Laos
7. Mr. Claudiu SULEA, Group of the European Youth for Change, Romania
8. Mr. Anban Ashlan RAJ, World Youth Leaders Organisation, Australia
9. Mr. Yosea KURNIANTO, Tanoto Foundation, Indonesia
10. Mr. Tergel ODGEREL, Phronesis, Mongolia

See full programme from June to December [here](#).

**YOUTH REPORT**

The ASEF Youth Report 2023 on “Stepping into Society 5.0: Youth Perspectives on Technology-Informed Societal Leadership” summarises over 8,500 young leaders’ perspectives from 51 Asian and European countries on the key societal challenges of our times, and how technology could be deployed to address them. The Report addresses two foundational questions crucial for shaping a more sustainable, digitally integrated future:

- How can societies within Society 5.0 benefit from the inclusion, support, and engagement of young people in technology-driven leadership roles?
- How can those in positions of power support young people on their leadership journeys in a world increasingly defined by Society 5.0?

[Watch the launch presentation of the report findings here.](#)
OUTCOMES AND IMPACT

Participants who filled up the Summit feedback survey agreed that ASEFYLS5 was successful in achieving the following objectives:

**95%** DEVELOPED BETTER UNDERSTANDING of values such as human dignity, freedom, democracy, equality, rule of law, human rights, peace and security, sustainable development, solidarity, and mutual respect.

**92%** INCREASED KNOWLEDGE AND BETTER UNDERSTANDING of Societal Challenges, particularly in Society 5.0

**100%** EMPOWER YOUTH of participants agreed they had built closer connections with their peers from the other region than their own (Asia/Europe)

Participants indicated how strongly they agree with the following statements:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Statement</th>
<th>Strongly agree</th>
<th>Agree</th>
<th>Neutral</th>
<th>Disagree</th>
<th>Strongly disagree</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>I developed a better understanding of the complexities of working in intercultural teams</td>
<td>66.7%</td>
<td>27.2%</td>
<td>4.9%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I developed a greater ability to communicate with people from different cultures</td>
<td>65.4%</td>
<td>25.9%</td>
<td>6.2%</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>I developed a better understanding of different perspectives (values, diversity, stereotypes etc.) to consider during intercultural communication</td>
<td>67.9%</td>
<td>28.4%</td>
<td>3.7%</td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>I developed my leadership skills for a global, interconnected world</td>
<td>51.9%</td>
<td>37.0%</td>
<td>9.9%</td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>My knowledge on Society 5.0 has increased</td>
<td>59.3%</td>
<td>35.8%</td>
<td>4.9%</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

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The exchange of ideas, cultures, and perspectives was truly inspiring. It reaffirmed my belief in the power of youth to drive meaningful impact across borders. This experience emphasised that, regardless of our backgrounds, we share a common commitment to shaping a brighter future.

Asian Participant

This summit cemented the importance of learning leadership skills on the ground through meaningful action for me, and truly underlined the importance of human-centred design and intercultural communication in Society 5.0.

European Participant
ASEF’s contribution is made possible with the financial support of the European Union.

Supported by:

Erasmus Student Network

The European Law Students’ Association