

# 6<sup>th</sup> ASEF LEADERSHIP YOUNG LEADERS IN SOCIETY SUMMIT 5.0

July - October 2025 | Osaka, Japan  
In conjunction with Japan World Expo 2025

## PROJECT REPORT

### ABOUT THE PROJECT

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

The 6<sup>th</sup> ASEF Young Leaders Summit (ASEFYLS6) took place from July to October 2025. It focused 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 ASEFYLS6 programme was a hybrid project with collaborative elements taking place online and in Osaka, Japan.

To learn more, take a look at the project overview [here](#).

### KEY OBJECTIVES OF THE PROJECT



#### EXPAND KNOWLEDGE

Enhance understanding of Society 5.0 and leadership.



#### BUILD INTERCULTURAL UNDERSTANDING

Work with peers from diverse backgrounds, strengthening their ability to work at a global, collaborative level.



#### EXCHANGE AND EMPOWER

Learn from each other through the exchange of ideas and solutions to solve global challenges.

### HIGHLIGHTS & KEY STATISTICS



**333**

Participants & Resource Persons engaged



**2 Months-long**

Training programme for participants



**513,699**

Social media reach



**10,300+**

Applicants from 51 countries



**16**

Dialogues organised between youth and senior decision-makers



**185,308**

Website visitors

### KEY FACTS

#### Activities

##### ▪ *Navigators Training*

13 – 18 July  
[Warsaw, Poland]

##### ▪ *Knowledge Building*

29 July – 26 August  
[Online]

##### ▪ *Leadership in Action*

27 August –  
28 September  
[Online]

##### ▪ *In-Person Youth Summit alongside World Expo 2025*

29 September –  
5 October  
[Osaka, Japan]

#### Participants

- 89 participants and Navigators
- 204 webinar attendees

#### Resource Persons

- 40 resource persons including Speakers and Trainers



## PROGRAMME STRUCTURE

ASEF YLS6 was **organised online and in Osaka, Japan between 29 July – 5 October 2025**, with the following 4 phases:

### Navigators Training 13 – 18 July 2025 | Warsaw, Poland

In preparation for the 6<sup>th</sup> ASEF Young Leaders Summit, ASEF organised the ASEF YLS6 Navigators Training in Warsaw, Poland between 13-18 July 2025, hosted in Natolin and in partnership with the College of Europe Natolin. **19 selected young professionals and students from 19 countries** in Asia and Europe (Alumni of ASEFEdu and Partner organisations) joined the training to prepare them for their task at hand - taking on the role of 'Navigators' in the subsequent phases, where they would co-lead groups of participants through their team collaboration phases and learning journey.

The training provided an **in-depth training on leadership, team collaboration, and design thinking**, providing them with the skills and tools needed to lead diverse, intercultural teams through the summit's thematic exploration of "Leadership in Society 5.0".

To learn more about the Navigators Training, you may visit [this webpage](#).



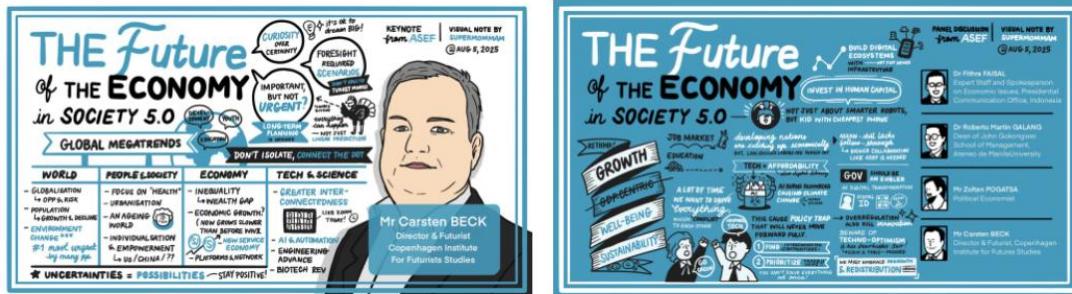
### Knowledge Building Phase July-August 2025 | Online

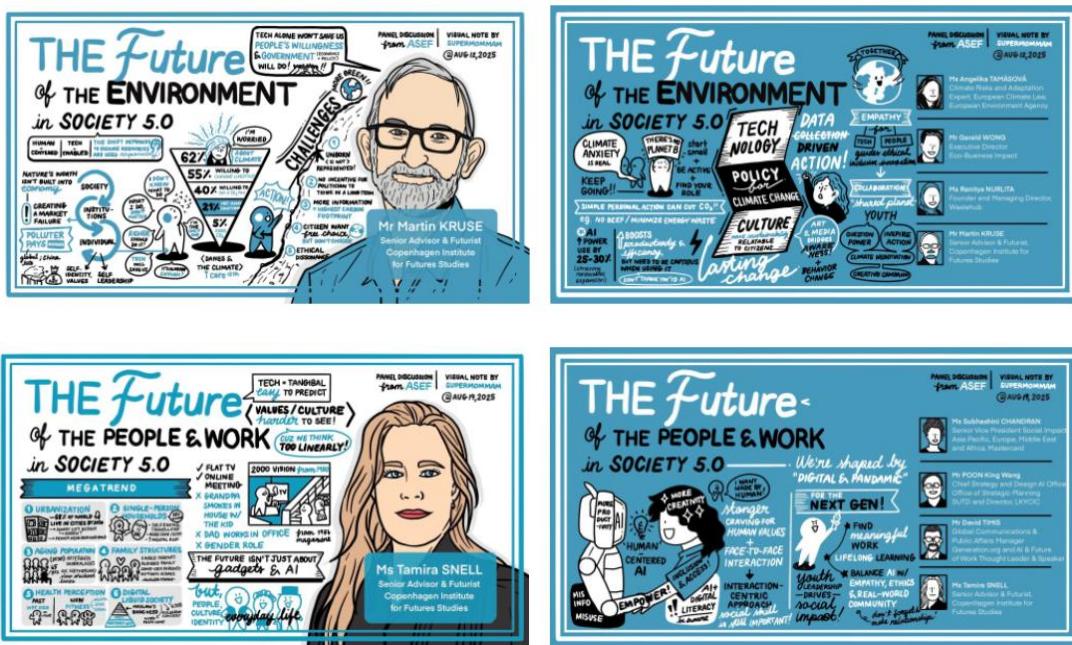
From among the 10,300+ applicants for this programme, **89 participants from 50 countries** were carefully selected to join. The programme started with the online Knowledge Building Phase, where participants joined live **webinars, workshops, and peer-to-peer exchange exercises** to **deepen their understanding of Leadership and Society 5.0**. As part of the programme, they completed individual tasks online and received extra resources for self-paced learning through our e-learning platform.

This year, selected sessions of the Knowledge Building Phase **were open to the public as webinars**, garnering an additional **204 unique attendees**, in addition to the programme participants. The three sessions covered the topics of what is the future of the 'economy', 'environment', and for 'people & work'?

The sessions featured speakers from:

- Copenhagen Institute for Futures Studies
- European Environment Agency
- Eco-Business Impact
- Economic Affairs at the Presidential Communications Office, Indonesia
- Mastercard
- Ateneo de Manila University
- Lee Kuan Yew Centre for Innovative Cities
- Wastehub
- Generation.org





To learn more about the Knowledge Building Phase, you may visit [this webpage](#).

**Leadership in Action & Well-being** Onboarding Session

**FRIDAY** 25 JULY 2025 | 7PM-9PM (GMT +7)  
2PM-4PM (GMT)

**Guest Speaker** **Guest Speaker** **Guest Speaker** **Guest Speaker** **Moderator**

**Katelyn Chin** **Shomy Hasan Chowdhury** **Ke (Linka) Lin** **Freya Chow-Paul** **Thuong Pham (Jules)**

Digital Communications Associate, UNDP in Malaysia, Singapore & Brunei Darussalam  
Co-Founder, Awareness 360  
Wellbeing & Mental Health Advocate, Movers Cheerleader  
Youth Project Lead, Education Department, Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF)  
Youth Engagement & Communications Associate, UNDP in Asia and the Pacific

## ASEF PARTNERS WITH THE UNDP MOVERS PROGRAMME TO PROVIDE YOUTH LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES

ASEF was honoured to partner with the UNDP Movers Programme to deliver *the ASEF-Movers Workshop Series: Empowering Youth Leadership Across Asia and Europe*. The programme was organised between 21 July to 22 August 2025 across 5 workshops. The workshops brought together hundreds of participants and covered the following topics:

- Leadership in action and well-being
- Storytelling and personal branding
- Climate action and sustainability (SDG 13)
- Green jobs and just transition
- Global citizenship and systems thinking

To learn more about the Movers Programme, you may visit [this webpage](#).

## Leadership in Action Phase September – October | Online

As part of the programme, ASEFYLS6 participants were encouraged to demonstrate their leadership through action. This year, together with **UNDP's Youth Empowerment team**, we challenged them to find best practice solutions for real-life global challenges.

During this phase participants **worked in intercultural teams** to collect case studies from across Asia & Europe on how technology is used to solve societal challenges. The challenge questions shaping the case studies were curated and selected in collaboration with the **Movers Programme**, an initiative by **UNDP's Youth Empowerment Portfolio in Asia and the Pacific (YEP-AP)**. Over the course of nearly two months, the teams collaborated across borders, engaging in online discussions and joint research. The case studies were then presented in-person at the Youth Summit in Osaka, Japan, and at the Japan World Expo 2025.

The challenges were varied and covered the following topics:

- Menstruation and Sustainability
- Waste Reduction and Circular Economy
- Social Housing and Resilient Cities

- Inclusion of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (DHH) Community
- Rural Healthcare and Digital Access
- Digital Skills for All
- Renewable Energy and Society 5.0
- Enhancing Access to Reproductive Health Education
- Expanding Technology Education
- Farming as an Attractive Career Path



## UPCOMING REPORT

### Transforming Society 5.0. Case Studies for Ethical, Inclusive and Sustainable Societies in Asia and Europe

The case studies collected by the ASEF Young Leaders will be published by ASEF in early 2026. The report will be a collection of **40 case studies from across Asia and Europe** illustrating **how technology is being leveraged to address some of today's most pressing societal challenges**. This compilation will offer real-world examples of innovation and collaboration, showcasing how ideas are being translated into tangible impact within communities across the two regions.

Through the lens of these case studies, the publication aims to inspire changemakers, especially youth, to reimagine how technology can be applied for social good, placing young leaders at the heart of a more human-centered digital transformation.

## PROGRAMME STRUCTURE (continued)

### Participants then joined the ASEF YLS6 Youth Summit in Japan!

#### Youth Summit

**29 September – 5 October 2025 | Osaka, Japan**

In conjunction with the World EXPO

**89 participants from 50 countries** attended the 6th ASEF Young Leaders Summit in Osaka, Japan. It physically brought the participants together to **Osaka, Japan** to build on their learnings from the online Knowledge Building Phase in a local setting, engaging in dialogue and exchanges with peers and experts in the field to build networks for future collaborations between the regions.

The training was organised **in partnership with the Japan Hub for Innovative Global Education (JIGE)** and **hosted by Kansai University**.

The Youth Summit included the following elements:

1. **Thematic workshops** and discussions on Leadership and Society 5.0
2. **Dialogues with experts** from Asia and Europe – providing diverse perspectives on leadership and technological innovation.
3. **Study Visit**, to JICA Kansai Center and The Great Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake Memorial Disaster Reduction and Human Renovation Institution, both in Kobe, showcasing ways in which technology is used to solve societal challenges
4. **Cultural exchange**, both within the local context, and between participants – including interacting with local students during lunch breaks and during the Cultural Evening.
5. **Participation at the World Expo 2025**, exploring 20+ pavilions, and where the participants **presenting their case studies on the main stage** at the World Expo 2025 on 2 October 2025.

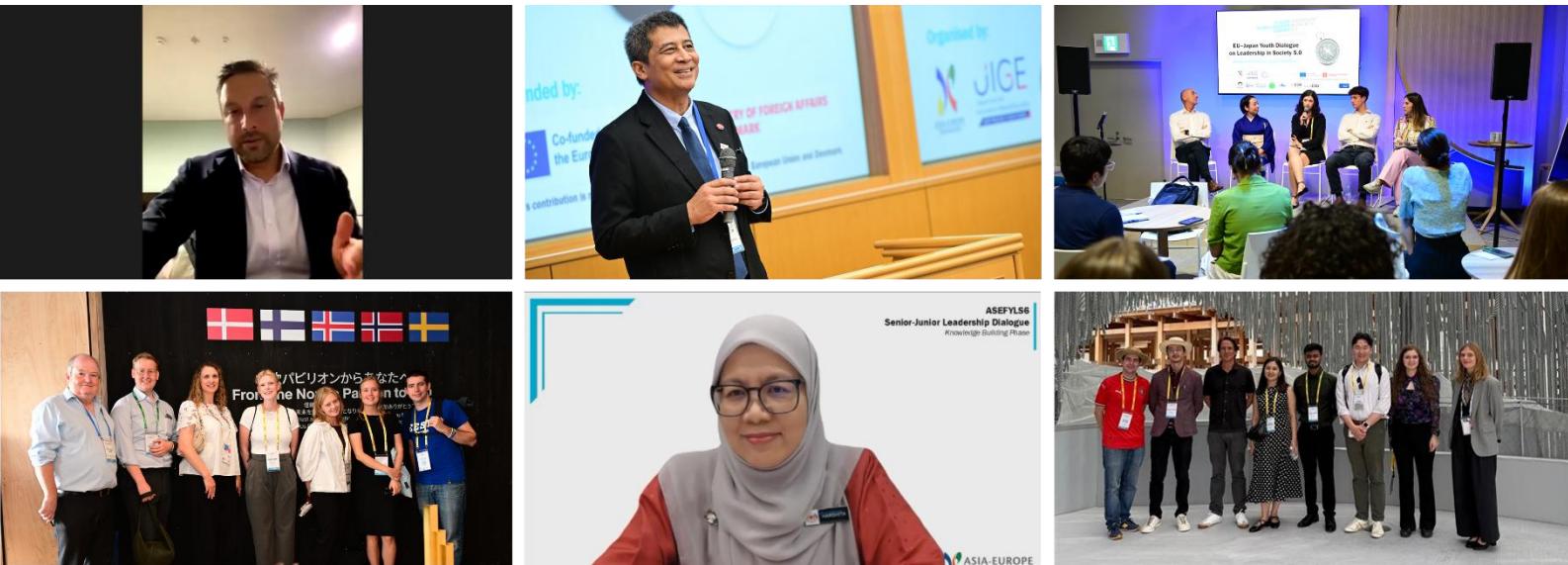
To learn more about the Youth Summit, visit [this webpage](#).

#### SENIOR – JUNIOR LEADERSHIP DIALOGUES

As part of the 6th ASEF Young Leaders Summit (ASEF YLS6), ASEF **organised a total of 16 Senior-Junior Leadership Dialogues** to foster structured exchanges between young participants and senior leaders, decision-makers, and policymakers. Of these, 2 dialogues were held online and 14 were conducted in person. The first dialogue took place with **Ambassador Brendan Dowling**, Australia's Ambassador for

Cyber Affairs and Critical Technology, followed by a session with **Prof. Harshita Aini Haroon**, Director of Malaysia's Higher Education Leadership Academy (AKEPT).

While in Osaka, a third dialogue was held in person during the Summit featuring **Mr. Nararya S. Soeprapto**, Deputy Secretary-General of ASEAN and ASEF Governor for ASEAN. In addition to these sessions, ASEF also facilitated **12 dialogues at various Asian and European Country Pavilions** of the World Expo 2025 in Osaka, including the Nordic, Indonesian, Austrian, Australian, Spanish, and IHCR & Red Cross pavilions. A special dialogue on “Leadership in the Era of Society 5.0” was also held in collaboration with the EU Pavilion, featuring **H.E. Jean-Eric Paquet**, the EU Ambassador to Japan.



## OUTCOMES AND IMPACT

Participants who filled up the feedback surveys agreed that the 6<sup>th</sup> ASEF Young Leaders Summit was successful in achieving the following objectives:

**96%**

**DEVELOPED A BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF DIFFERENT PERSPECTIVES**  
of participants agree that they have developed their understanding of perspectives to consider during intercultural communication.

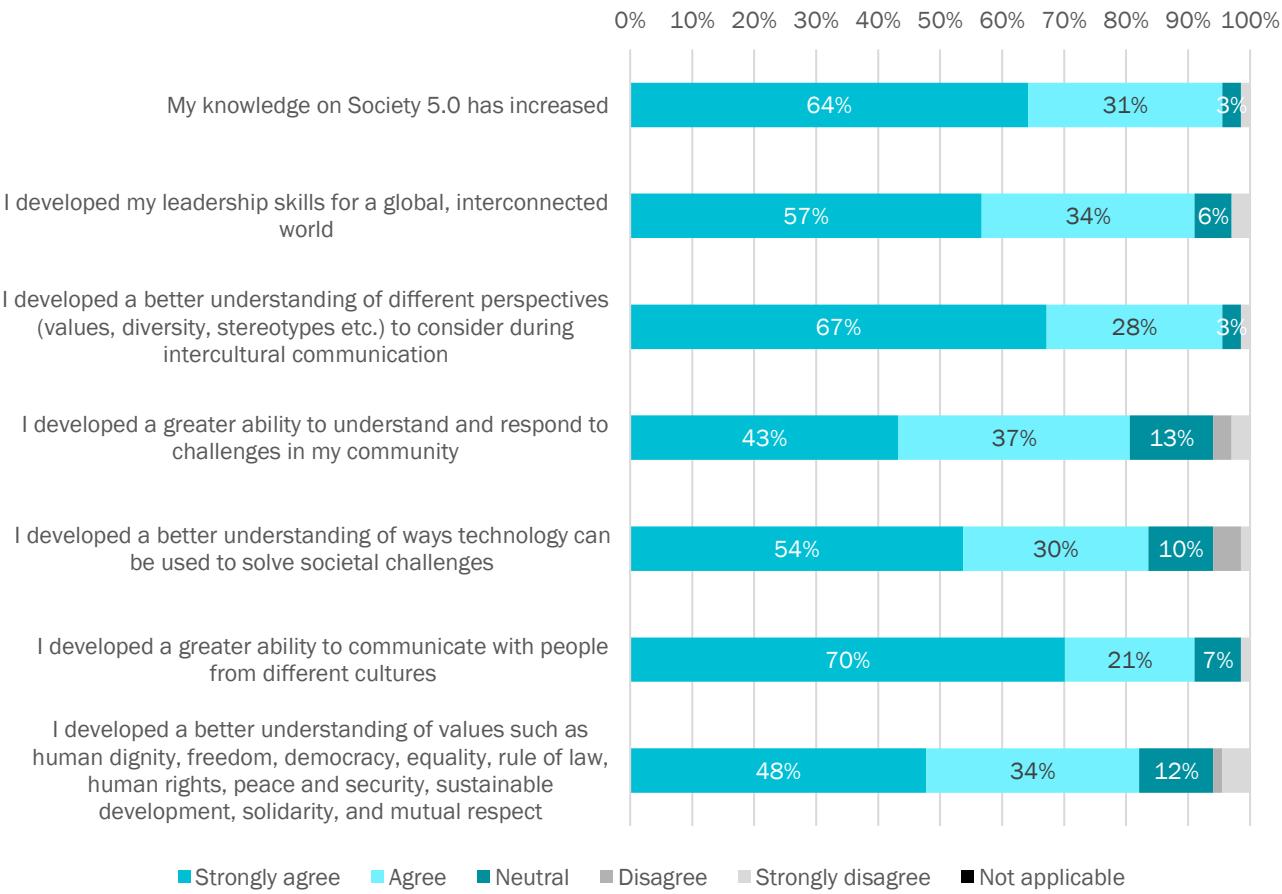
**96%**

**INCREASED KNOWLEDGE**  
of participants have a better understanding of Society 5.0

**100%**

**BUILT CONNECTIONS TO STAY IN TOUCH WITH**  
of participants agreed they had built closer connections with their peers from their own region, as well as peers from the other region than their own

## Participants indicated how strongly they agree with the following statements



“[ASEF YLS6 taught me that] leadership isn't about speaking the loudest, but about listening deeply. Throughout the Summit, I realised how powerful it is when people from completely different worlds come together with openness and respect. It reminded me that **real impact begins when we move beyond our comfort zones**, share honestly, and learn from one another's lived experiences. It strengthened my belief that **compassion and collaboration are not just soft skills, they're the foundations of real change**.

Shraddha PANDA  
Participant from India



“The most meaningful insight I gained was that the high-tech vision of Society 5.0 a society that heavily integrates cyberspace and physical space requires a surprisingly low tech, human-centered form of leadership. I realised that **the biggest barrier to solving global challenges [...] isn't the lack of technology, but the lack of trust, empathy, and intercultural understanding** required to mobilise diverse groups around a common vision. “In a world increasingly driven by data and algorithms, **the most critical leadership skill is the ability to connect deeply**, authentically, and equitably with people from vastly different cultural realities.”

Thitthiphone OLINH  
Participant from Lao PDR



“Leadership in Society 5.0 is about guiding humanity toward a future where technology serves both sustainability and inclusivity. It reminded me that true progress happens when innovation uplifts people and the planet alike [...] without ethical guidance and inclusive decision-making, digital tools can reinforce inequality, erode trust, and distance us from the very human connections that drive collaboration and compassion. That's why leadership in this new era has to strike the delicate balance between innovating with awareness, so that technology remains a means to empower, not to exclude.

Gonçalo TAVARES  
Participant from Portugal



“The [ASEF YLS6] Youth summit emphasised my perception that **through dialogue and communication, great things can be achieved**. In a world where unrest and conflict are growing, it is all the more important to be able to communicate with individuals from different backgrounds. **Building upon interconnectedness and understanding between nations and leaders, we can shape a better future**. We need more dialogue and conversations between people of different backgrounds, creating ties and bridges that can support a global unity network.

Sarella ARKKILA  
Participant from Finland

## FOR MORE INFORMATION

Please visit the ASEF YLS6 Project webpages:

- Learn more about the ASEF YLS6 Project [here](#).
- See Full Programme from July to December [here](#).
- Learn more about the participants in the Participants Booklet [here](#).

## ORGANISED BY:



## IN PARTNERSHIP WITH:



## KNOWLEDGE PARTNERS:



## EARMARKED FUNDERS:



Co-funded by  
the European Union



MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS  
OF DENMARK

## GENERAL FUNDERS:



Flags represent countries that contributed to ASEF's General Pool for the previous year, as of 11 July 2025

## SUPPORTED BY:



Ministry of Foreign Affairs  
of Japan



The European Law Students' Association



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