

YSEALI Seeds for the Future Funds

Frequently Asked Questions

Do proposals have to be submitted in English?

Yes. Only proposals in English will be considered.

Who submits the proposal?

The team leader should be the one to submit the proposal.

Can I submit more than one project proposal?

No, only one project per person, team leader or team member is allowed.

How can I find alumni to be on my team?

Visit the YSEALI Facebook page to connect with other alumni at <https://www.facebook.com/youngsoutheastasianleaders> or reach out via the YSEALI twitter at <http://twitter.com/yseali>. Be sure to also visit the YSEALI website <http://yseali.state.gov/> for announcements about activities to help link up alumni.

How will projects be evaluated?

Projects will be selected to ensure a balance of winners throughout the ASEAN member countries. The relevant U.S. Embassy or Consulate and regional experts from the U.S. State Department will evaluate the projects based on:

- Relevance to ASEAN
- Impact of project on one or more of the YSEALI themes (civic engagement, economic development, education, and environment)
- Innovation
- Feasibility
- Timeliness (e.g. coordination with an annual/special event)

What is an innovative project?

The State Department considers any project with uncommon methodology, subject matter, location, audience, and/or results to be innovative.

How can I show support for a project?

During the application process, YSEALI members may click on the “thumbs up” icon on the projects they endorse. These “votes” will be totaled and factored into the final rankings.

Tips to Building a Strong Project Proposal

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Overview

Create a name for your project and select its YSEALI theme.

The following themes were identified by South East Asian youth as their generation's greatest challenges in the ASEAN region:

- **Civic Engagement:** Includes activities that promote human rights (e.g. religious tolerance, trafficking in persons), political participation, and women's empowerment.
- **Economic Development:** Includes activities that support youth development, entrepreneurship and sustainable economic growth.
- **Education:** Includes activities that enhance access to education for underserved populations (e.g. girls, religious minorities, disabled persons), English language study, and STEM fields (science, technology, engineering and mathematics).
- **Environmental Protection:** Includes activities that address climate change, disaster preparedness, and food security issues.

Where will the project take place?

Explain which countries will benefit from your project. The project must involve at least two ASEAN member countries. You may initially submit your project for your own country and invite team members from other countries to join. If you are unable to recruit team members from another country, the proposal will not move into the finalist phase. There is no limit to the number of countries that may join, so long as they are all member countries of ASEAN.

Describe your innovative idea

Provide a summary of your project idea, explaining its goal and stressing how it is innovative.

What impact will your project have?

What are your goals? - Define what you hope to achieve by implementing your project.

Who will benefit? – Define what groups or communities will benefit from your project.

What results do you anticipate? – Define the measurable result(s) that will come from your project?

How will you measure success? – Explain how you will measure your success in attaining your defined results. The type of measurement you use will depend on your project. Take this opportunity to critically and creatively think about your project to see what the success and impact of your project will be. For example, previous proposals measured surveyed participants before and after an activity to measure success. Other projects measured outcomes, like how many women register to vote after attending their training on women in the democratic process.

How will the project be publicized? - Describe how you will use social media, print news, or other forms of media to share information about your project.

Which local partners will be involved?

You are encouraged to work with partner organizations, including government, NGO and private business organizations to support your project goals. This is not a requirement.

Team Members

The team leader is a USG alumnus and YSEALI member who submits a project online. All others working on the project are called team members. Once a team leader has created a project, he/she can invite others to join the project by sending them a link to the project via email and asking them to click the "Join us" link at the bottom of the project.

- **By the final phase of the competition, each team must have at least 4 members in more than one country who are YSEALI members.** Teams can have non-YSEALI members, but they will not be included in the team's total members for the purpose of this competition. Projects that do not meet this requirement will not be considered.
- **Each team must include at least two alumnus/na from a U.S. government sponsored program.**
- **U.S. citizens can be team *members* but, because awards are distributed through U.S. Embassies and activities must be carried out abroad, no U.S. citizen can serve as a team leader on any project.**
- **Only Team Members who are alumni and YSEALI members will have access to the grants webpage.**

Project Start Date and End Date

Projects must be completed within one year from the date that a winning team obtains funds. The State Department anticipates that funds will be distributed in September 2014.

Timeline of major implementation steps

Provide a dated list of the steps you will take to implement your project. This timeline should include steps from project preparation to implementation to evaluation.

Total Funding Requested

YSEALI members can request up to \$10,000 in support of their project.

YSEALI Seeds for the Future funds can be used to pay for:

- Intra-regional or in-country transportation
- Trainer or speaker expenses
- Reasonable equipment and materials
- Meals or refreshments that are integral to the overall project goals
- Communications and publicity materials such as manuals or project advertisements

YSEALI Seeds for the Future funds cannot be used to pay for: (This list is not exhaustive.)

- Airfare to or from the United States
- Sustained staff salaries, office space, and overhead/operational expenses
- Large items of durable equipment
- Excessive meals, refreshments, entertainment or alcohol
- Academic research
- Provision of direct social services to a population (e.g. Funding cannot be used to buy books to give to a community. However, funding can be used to purchase books that will be used in a training.)
- Support or opposition of partisan political activity
- To fund public or password-protected websites

Detailed Budget

All items in your detailed budget that are valued at \$200 or more must be itemized. Unit cost breakdowns should be provided wherever possible. For example:

- Correct: \$50/person travel from X to Y * 10 people = \$500 for travel expenses
- Incorrect: travel expenses for \$500.

Items of related costs should not be lumped together. For example, travel, accommodations and per diem for a speaker should be three separate line items.