

# ASEAN PEACEBUILDERS CONFERENCE

Tomorrow's Leaders,  
Today's Peacebuilders



## CONFERENCE RAPPORTEUR REPORT

Panel Title:

Address by Chairman  
Rotary ASEAN Network  
PDG Jason Lim

23<sup>rd</sup> May 2024

Parkroyal Collections, Kuala Lumpur

# Session Overview



- Session objectives: Introduction to the event and to lay out its objectives
- Speaker's name : Mr. Jason Lim
- Affiliation of the speaker: Chairman of ROTARY ASEAN NETWORK
- Target audience: Attendees of Conference, ASEAN PEACEBUILDERS NETWORK, policy makers, Sunway University (designs the program)

# Key Points: PDG Jason Lim



## Key Points:

- Provided background of ROTARY ASEAN (“RA”) - 1,600 club, 42,000 Rotarians
- He highlighted that today’s event was the first event after the formation of RA.
- Explained that one the objectives of Rotary are to promote understanding of world peace
- At the same time, he explained that many of Rotary’s objectives such as extermination of polio by 2026 cannot be done without world peace
- Today’s state of play - sluggish economies, civil and international conflicts – Myanmar, Ukraine, all this boils down to peace
- RI President Gordon McNally has taken various steps to promote peace and mental health

## Objectives:

- Is not achieved by mere lectures, need human ideas
- We need to work together to resolve conflicts and problems, to work towards hope and peace, using the magic of Rotary

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## CONFERENCE RAPPORTEUR REPORT

Panel Title:

H.E. Ekkaphab Phanthavong

Deputy Secretary-General (DSG) of ASEAN  
for Socio-Cultural Community (ASCC)

23<sup>rd</sup> May 2024

Parkroyal Collections, Kuala Lumpur

# Key Points: H.E. Ekkaphab Phanthavong



## Key Points:

- Multifaceted Approach in the work that ASEAN as a group of 600 million international citizens
- Commitment of the ASEAN Secretariat thru their various interventional strategies as Malaysia takes the ASEAN Chairmanship in 2024

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## CONFERENCE RAPPORTEUR REPORT

Panel Title:

Keynote Address by YB Hannah Yeoh  
Minister of Youth & Sports, Malaysia

23<sup>rd</sup> May 2024

Parkroyal Collections, Kuala Lumpur

# Key Findings: YB Hannah Yeoh



## Key Points:

- Provided updates on all the initiatives taken by the government on youth empowerment – launching of Hari Belia Negara this Saturday by the PM
- Building youth confidence through the Yakin Boleh program
- Focus on building the bottom 90% of youths who do not participate in programs offered (correctional facilitates, poor families, etc.)
- Only 11% of youths are part of societies, associations, etc. - Find new Ways to engage with the youths of today - social media, tap into the gig economy
- Building relationships outside of formal settings
- Rotary to collaborate with Rakan Muda
- Orang Asli community had the lowest percentage of happiness among youths in Malaysia – limited access to activities that help with managing free time or stress - Create a level playing field

# Key Findings: YB Hannah Yeoh



## Objectives:

- Session objectives: Focus on youths to redeem the good name of Malaysia
- Hopes the conference and discussions put forth will lead to effective intervention into youth mentality so that if there is a choice between war or reaching out, they will choose the latter.



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## CONFERENCE RAPPORTEUR REPORT

Panel Title:

Prof Dr. Harry Minas

Head Global and Cultural Mental Health Unit School of  
Population and Global Health, University of Melbourne

Special Guest Speaker: Mental Wellbeing

23<sup>rd</sup> May 2024

Parkroyal Collections, Kuala Lumpur

# Key Findings : Prof Dr. Harry Minas

## Session objectives:

Overlap between Peacebuilding and Mental Health

## Key Points:

- Efforts in peacebuilding ("PB") – conflicts and mental health ("MH") occur in complex environments, some areas of overlap. He highlighted his key point that PB and MH development have same common object – strengthening human security
- Human security is more than absence of violent conflict, it encompasses human rights, good governance, access to education and health care and that each individual has the opportunities to fulfil his /her own potential
- Both fields have certain challenges and recognizes that without collaboration, the objectives they seek are unattainable
- Building capacity for both areas is key
- SDG – peace and MH are goals and achieving these goals will also achieve goals for economic opportunity, gender equality and prevention of conflict. A radical failure in one affects other goals, e.g. climate change or if economies collapse, can forget other goals
- Similarly Mental Health – affect social development
- We have to recognize that these are complex systems with multiple objectives

# Key Findings : Prof Dr. Harry Minas



## Key Points:

### ASEAN & SDG

- Goals are similar to SDG's
- 3 ASEAN blueprints – economic, social and cultural blueprints have to work together
- SDG – Report – right to live free of despair, freedom, equal opportunity to enjoy all their rights
- Prof Harry notes that there is a divergence in capabilities in ASEAN – not just in institutional capabilities but in many other areas.
- Question – how to narrow the gap
- ASEAN + 3- and East Asia Summit Leaders Statements on Mental Health Cooperation – makes clear commitments to mental health development in ASEAN and the broader region
- While they focus on cooperation across member states - there is also a great need for co-operation across ministries, professional disciplines, community organisations and people with lived experience of mental illness and their families.

# Key Findings : Prof Dr. Harry Minas



## Key Points:

### Core Common Objective : Human Security

- Mental health – need to build capabilities and create an environment that is enabling
- What are the threats and vulnerabilities – violence and abuse, access to health and social services
- What are the conditions that enable peace and MH – are the same – institutional arrangements, economic arrangements, opportunities for education and employment, cultural values, social systems and commitments to live dignified lives, for those facing multiple difficulties
- Need instrumental freedom- political freedoms, social opportunities, social opportunities
- E.g. severe domestic violence – all enabling environments are missing

## Key Findings : Prof Dr. Harry Minas



### Recommendations & Action Items;

- Peace Building and Mental Health are mutually reinforcing
- Peacebuilding program and efforts to improve mental health and protect mental health in young people are mutually reinforcing
- Developing comprehensive and effective mental health systems with strong focus on mental health promotion and responsive clinical services will strengthen human security in individuals, families and communities
- Effective MH system is essential in recovery from natural and human made disasters and in conflict and post conflict settings

# ASEAN PEACEBUILDERS CONFERENCE

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## CONFERENCE RAPPORTEUR REPORT

**Speaker:**

Professor Dr Mohamad Tajuddin Mohamad Rasdi, Board of  
Directors, UKM

**Panel Title:**

Peacebuilding in the ASEAN Region

23<sup>rd</sup> May 2024

Parkroyal Collections, Kuala Lumpur

# Key Findings: Prof Dr Tajuddin

## Session objectives

- Values needed in peacebuilders
- Challenges or problems of youth in building peace
- How to educate the important values of peacebuilding
- Challenges in order to leave a peacebuilding legacy

## What has happened to our Varsity Graduates?

- They disregard dignity of the others
- They fail to understand history and its context
- They do not have compassion for others
- They tend to echo and follow the national political race and their religious narratives
- They are in a siege mindset

# Key Findings: Prof Dr Tajuddin

Values needed in peacebuilders

## 1. Respect for the other across race, religion and politics

- to be humble - no one is a know it all
- to be humbles as we share the same blood
- to be aware that we need each other
- to ask for respect is to give respect to others

## 2. Knowledge Of Heritage Across Other Races

- it unifies influences
- it is a clue for survival
- is the meeting point of all
- is where we start
- is the power of diplomacy, communication and spiritual growth

## 3 Inclusiveness

- all must be one
- there are times the many need the one, and the one will need the many
- to be with others is to be with a larger sense of 'self'

## 4. Dignity For All

- the measure of a man is his or her dignity
- dignity is expected and is also give and accorded by others
- maruah is the spirit and soul of a human being
- trust, dependability and honor unifies the meaning of dignity



# Key Findings: Prof Dr Tajuddin

## **Problem of youth today in building peace**

- divisive teacher in religion
- an isolationist teacher of competition and success
- an industry based education that dehumanizes
- a teacher with hatred for History
- a self proclaimed supremacist or victimization in the idea of race

## **How do we educate the important values of peacebuilding?**

- struggle with pain together
- live, sleep, eat and pray together (PLKN)
- unlearn and relearn
- reflect alone
- question all and everything inherited from society
- to walk the path alone and to end with another path together

# Key Findings: Prof Dr Tajuddin

## What are the challenges to leave a peacebuilding legacy?

- Political institutions and their narratives
- Religious institutions and their decrees
- Educational institutions and their MQA boxes of imprisonment
- An unchecked and an unshackled social media
- A freedom of speech without responsibility, adab, conscience or hindrance

## Conclusion:

1. Building A Parallel Malaysia
2. Rediscovering The Future
3. Chose Spirituality Not Religion

# ASEAN PEACEBUILDERS CONFERENCE

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## CONFERENCE RAPPORTEUR REPORT

Panel:

Panel Session I

Mental Health

The Silent Pandemic

Panel Title:

Peacebuilding in the ASEAN Region

23<sup>rd</sup> May 2024

Parkroyal Collections, Kuala Lumpur

# Overview



**Session objectives:** To generate discussion among panel members and participants on mental health issues and challenges in ASEAN context

**Chair/Moderator:** Prof Dato' Dr. Andrew Mohanraj, Consultant Psychiatrist, President of Malaysian Mental Health Association, Taylor's University, National Council for Persons with Disabilities, President of SPCA.

## Panelist:

1. **Prof Dr. Harry Minas** (Head of Global and Cultural Mental Health Unit, School of Population and Global Health, University of Melbourne)
2. **Dr. Hervita Diatri**, Psychiatrist and Academic Staff, Dept of Psychiatry, Faculty of Medicine, Universitas Indonesia
3. **Dr. Dutsadee Juensiragulwit**, Head of Child Psychiatric Clinic, Nakhon Ratchasima Psychiatric Hospital, Thailand

# Q1. How does peacebuilding and mental health and how to translate it into action



## Prof Harry Minas

- Traditionally people with mental illness were hospitalized – appalling conditions, mental health system dealt with ambulance at the bottom of the hill, with broken bones
- Need to deal with prevention of illness, just like conflicts, where you talk about stopping war. Question is how to build peace and prevent war.
- Domestic violence, bullying, shaming – we need to work on the social determinants of good positive mental health
- Collectively – all parties have to do their part. Ministries – vast budget goes to maintaining hospitals, but need to look at preventative approach in both areas (PB and MH)
- The determinants are the same – so need to do something about the determinants rather than just the outcomes

## Q2: Youth mental health - to promote preventive aspects, how to give youth a cause to fight for, infuse a rallying call

**Prof Harry Minas**

- Key is to include people who had mental health problems in the design of the MH programs. Our current approach is like running a charity, I tell you what I think you need.
- Need to form partnerships with people who know what is MH and get their help in the design of the programs
- Community organizations can also infuse the young people
- A problem is dichotomy between promotion and treatment and care. Need to build capacity of both, partnership between both.

**Q 3: Several states in Australia have a minister for Mental Health – leadership – Is there a need for leadership in government – in cabinet or legislative assemblies**

**Prof Harry Minas**

- Its everybody's business but they discovered in Australia is that Health Minister's priorities – new drugs, cardio vascular surgeries capabilities, etc
- But for MH it is major contributor to disabilities and downstream economic cost
- So one of the major changes in Australia is the attention and resources developed for MH programs – MH budget in some countries is very small (e.g. 2% in Indonesia ?)
- Distributed leadership necessary – not just politicians but all components of the system

## Panel discussion & Presentation Experience of Thailand - Dr. Dutsadee (1/3)



- Presentation included – School Mental Health Program in Thailand
- In the past 30 years ago, scattered approach
- 5-6 years ago, rethink of the model – 1 hospital and all schools to have access
- Assessment, screening and then referring to hospitals – Digital platform called HERO
- HERO – intersectoral collaboration - education and health
- Can reach 100,000 students
- Teachers learn how to look for children with symptoms of behavioral problems – 9 symptoms and taking care of them with behavior modification and counselling
- Reach 1.6 million students have been reached up and plan to scale up to reach all students, teachers can take care of them and don't need to refer to psychiatric hospitals
- If necessary, they refer to the HERO consultants
- Of them 40% received counselling and behavior modifications
- MH is about teachers and students – how can we let sad teachers take care of children



## Panel discussion & Presentation Experience of Thailand - Dr. Dutsadee (2/3)



- School wellbeing model
- Need strong leadership, stakeholders collaboration – not just teachers but communities and families and youth
- Need skills – teachers competencies, positive parent training
- Need support system – peaceful classrooms, so need to monitor

## **Panel discussion & Presentation Experience of Thailand - Dr. Dutsadee (3/3)**



**Theme of Peacebuilding – prevention of violence in schools, how was the success tested out?**

- Did it reduce harassment, body shaming etc in Thailand
- Answer – when teachers' behaviour improved, the students behaviour improved
- The digital platform was introduced through UNICEF funding
- It's a directional relationship – without MH there would be no peace

## Advancement of Mental Health community in Indonesia:

- Malaysia – we have moved towards deinstitutionalizing MH care, but Indonesia's challenge on physical restraint is useful for the discussion
- still have problems with treatment gap – 1 out of 16 people have depression
  - Some are put in chains
  - Are trying to improve) – for teenagers – it is second highest reason for mortality
  - Determinants for mental disorder – 1. low education, 2. domestic violence, 3. low social income, 4. loneliness
  - How to improve their system -
    - strengthen effective leadership and governance for mental health
    - Comprehensive , integrated and responsive mental health and social care services in community based settings
    - Strategies for the promotion and prevention of mental health
    - Strengthen information systems, evidence and research for mental health

### **Advancement of Mental Health community in Indonesia:**

- Improve primary care- WHO model – community mental health model, case management system, mother and child are an important cluster, deliver training for lay person to be case manager
- Improve secondary care - hospital, puskesmas, puskesmas pembantu, posyandu, home visit
- Pilot program in south sulawesi- social sectors – to deliver activities for youth and other ages, develop roles
- Challenges:
  - Need peer support system – so that they can be treated at the location itself
  - Generating evidence for sustaining and scaling up the program
  - Access to mental health services - need to scale up through whole nation

- **Q: numbers of people in physical restraints are high**
  - There is a movement to highlighting this, human rights issue – how do they deal with this in indonesia (pasom)
  - Trying to educate people, social sectors is very important, family support
  - Cultural aspect – when we thought it was simplistic to talk about human rights and medication, but not so easy. Homes in achah – what about the fact that there was violence that has caused trauma, what about forgiveness.
  - Free pasom program

# Overview of discussion – regional perspective



1. ASEAN + 3, ASEAN East Asia – about programs for collaboration in Mental Health programs
2. Initiatives in Thailand and Indonesia will have political support across states
3. Need to bring national programs across ASEAN
4. Need more discussion on this

## Recommendations & Action Items

1. Outline any actionable takeaways or next steps proposed by speakers or participants.
2. Focus on clear and achievable recommendations
3. Expound on the recommendations, explaining their potential impact or benefits
4. If there are action items, specify who is responsible for completing them and by when (timelines if mentioned)

# ASEAN PEACEBUILDERS CONFERENCE

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## CONFERENCE RAPPORTEUR REPORT

Panel:  
Panel Session 2  
Peace Building  
Youth is Our Hope for Peace  
Tomorrow's Leader, Today's Peacebuilders

23<sup>rd</sup> May 2024  
Parkroyal Collections, Kuala Lumpur

# Overview



**Session objectives:** To generate discussion among panel members and participants on mental health issues and challenges in ASEAN context. The promotion of peace is emphasized as a critical ingredient in nation building. In particular, the stability and economic wellbeing of the Southeast Asian region has presented itself as a great challenge and whereas a peaceful and vibrant economic environment would become its important vision. It presents the idea of building sustainable peace.

**Chair/Moderator:** Gerard Ratnam, Producer & TV Host

**Panelist:**

1. **Professor Dr Muhammad Tajuddin**, UCSI University
2. **Mr. Martin Scott**, Global Partnerships Manager, Mediators Beyond Borders International, USA
3. **Ms Charmaine Mae Dahapioso-Baconga**, Mediators Beyond Borders International, Philippines
4. **Ms Lea Perekrest**, Institute of Economics and Peace, Sydney
5. **Mr Ronnie Sodusta**, United Peace Federation



# Key Point by Panelist

## Key Points by Martin Phillip Scott

- Youth are the key for peacebuilder
- We don't engage youths because we think youths are leader some day, youth can be leaders today
- We don't see them in decision making panels
- They are easier to train because there is less unlearning to do
- Coming out of covid, how does the youth handle it with :
- Resilience - build them together
- Criticism about youths these are soft

## Key Points by Charmaine Mae

- How did we build peace?
  - Capacity building on peacebuilding
  - Community engagement
  - Building the next generation leaders
  - Peacebuilding program has to be about them
  - It has to be a 2-way conversations
- Realize that our time has passed and give opportunities to the young people

# Key Point by Panelist

## Key Points by Dr Jasmine Begum

- Importance of youth in peacebuilding
- Demographic dividend
- Youth demographics - 30% of them contribute to the GDP, let them make decision, they have economic impact, they give different perspective, they contribute to the digital world
- The theme is centered around youth power, new perspectives, inspiring
- Challenges faced by youth in peacebuilding - lack of resources, marginalization, discrimination and lack of representation
- We don't listen to youth and them feeling heard

## Key Points by Lea Perekrests

- Measuring global peace - global peace index
- What country in peace have in common, well functioning govt, free flow information, low level of corruption,
- High levels of positive peace are associated with higher per capita
- There is better resilience coupled with better environmental outcomes
- Thus, the results are higher measures of wellbeing, with better performances on SDG
- This framework is shared with countries to cultivate peace in their countries
- Developing economies still having polarization increasing

# Key Point by Panelist

## Key Points by Ronnie Sodusta

- Best practice on peacebuilding - empowering youth as against of peace
- Peace designers - teaching service projects planning to
- Sinergy - students, ideas and energy
- Mentorship programs
- We want to be heard, when designing youth program, make sure the programs are designed for youth and want to be heard

## Key Points by Asiya

- Sdgs, principle of leaving no one behind, youths are neglected, if there is no inclusiveness
- 52000 - children's refugees who has no access to formal education
- Youth are change breakers
- Hard to win trust these days
- Leadership is so much about influence these days not titles

# Recommendations & Action Items



Many Issues, Truth Is Not Revealed, Less Media Coverage. How Can We Work Together To Guide – there must be inclusion at all levels

How Can We Be Partners To Be A Part Of The Peacebuilding?

- Do Not Use The Word Unwanted With The Young Generation
- As Refugees We Have To Work Together And We Unite First
- Rohingya Students Relocated To Philippines, They Are Given Opportunities

Economic Benefits

- We Do Not Discuss The Cost Of Violence
- Youth Remain

# ASEAN PEACEBUILDERS CONFERENCE

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## CONFERENCE RAPPORTEUR REPORT

Panel:  
Panel Session 3  
Climate Change

23<sup>rd</sup> May 2024  
Parkroyal Collections, Kuala Lumpur

# Overview



**Session objectives:** Impact of climate change on Humanity, Water & Food crisis, and refugee migration

**Chair/Moderator:** **Nadiah Hanim Abd Latif**, Socialpreneur & Co-founder of OpiS International

**Panelist:**

1. **Dato' Dr Xavier Jayakumar**, Former Minister of Water, Land, and Natural Resources, Malaysia
2. **Mr Shah Redza**, Director of Perak State Parks Corporation, working to stop the decline of tigers in Royal Belum State Park and preserving our rainforest.
3. **Dr Serina Hijjas**, Chairperson of Climate Governance Malaysia, the country chapter of the World Economic Forum's Climate Governance Initiative
4. **Dr Natalia Wroblewska**, Public health specialist focusing on health promotion and social determinants of health, who country office for Malaysia, Brunei Darussalam and Singapore

# Key Point by Panelist

## Key Points by Dato Dr Xavier Jayakumar

- Asians blindly follow what is implemented or told to do by Westerners (colonisations)
- Regulations implemented by the North but not followed by them
- Malaysia as a nation to protect its people. Target set by the North – boycotts if not followed
- Westerners are threatened by the growth of Asian countries
- Climate change is real but we should not be bound by timelines set by the westerners
- Climate change due to war is a more important focus
- Climate change will happen no matter what – doing away with fossil fuels, and coal plants can cause other issues

## Key Points by Dato Shah Redza Hussein

- Development & individual POV – nature = resource. Nature is an asset and its shrinking cost of loss of nature will be expensive than conserving it
- 4.5M sqm 700M population, water comes from the forest (tropical landscape), no streams, no river, no catchment, no dams, no electricity & no water at home
- Perak 2025, water resources depleting, unable to export to neighbouring states
- No industrial complex without water
- Forest conservation is necessary for water conservation

# Key Findings: Dr Serina Hijjas



- Adaption & resilience
  - Rising temperatures will be one of the biggest issues in the future
  - CO2 levels are rising. M'sia has passed the midpoint
  - Carbon = new currency. Saving planet health using Carbon Budget
  - Water issues. At the rate it is moving global carbon budget will be busted by 2030 – must reduce by 50% energy, water, and waste resources and change the current trajectory to achieve net-zero carbon emission by 2050.
  - Humidity, temp, water, biodiversity, ocean, air, CO2
  - Increase in global heat stress, 1.5-degree rise in temp, draughts/floods, loss of ecosystem balance, 30% increase in acidity PH (corals dying), increase in air pollutants, GHG gases rising in the atmosphere



## Key Findings: Dr Natalia Wroblewska



- Health issues to be aware of with climate change – increase security & safety of society
- ¼ deaths globally are related to environmental reason
- Poor health impacts the economy - invest in the environment to promote better health to enhance the economy
- Key climate hazards = heat-related illness, vector-borne disease, noncommunicable disease, malnutrition, respiratory, mental and psychological, zoonoses, increase in disability
- Policymakers should include people and the environment in mind when making policies

# Recommendations & Action Items

## 1. Regional Climate Action Plan:

- Develop a comprehensive, region-specific climate action plan that takes into account the diverse ecosystems and vulnerabilities of ASEAN member states.
- Emphasize sustainable practices, renewable energy adoption, and conservation efforts.
- Focus on the effects of climate events on maternal and child health

## 2. Cross-Border Cooperation:

- Foster collaboration on climate change initiatives across borders, encouraging the sharing of best practices, technology, and expertise.
- Establish a regional framework for joint data sharing in climate-resilient agriculture and infrastructure.

## 3. Public Awareness Campaigns:

- Implement educational campaigns to raise public awareness about the impact of climate change and the role individuals can play in mitigation and adaptation.
- Encourage sustainable practices at both community and individual levels.
- Safeguarding the health and rights of women, children, and adolescents