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# Young Southeast Asian Leaders Initiative Institute on Environment

Honolulu, Hawaii | Boulder, Colorado | Washington, DC  
May 3, 2015 – June 28, 2015

## Participant Biographies



**Ms. Nurul Amalina Binti CHE ARIFFIN (Amalina)**  
*Law, International Islamic University Malaysia, Malaysia*

Ms. Nurul Amalina Binti Che Ariffin is studying Law and completed her third year at International Islamic University Malaysia. She has won acceptance to many international conferences and competitions. Ms. Ariffin has actively participated in camps and workshops such as Global Peace Volunteer Workshop and McKinsey Youth Leadership Academy. In 2014, she also participated in the youth table discussion on rationalization of the fossil fuel subsidy under the Ministry of Youth and Sports. With her advocacy skills that she has acquired through various legal competitions, she aspires to become an environmental lawyer who can improve environmental law in Malaysia



**Ms. Kelly Chiali CHENG (Kelly)**  
*Broadcasting/Journalism, Taylors University Lakeside Campus, Malaysia*

Ms. Kelly Chiali Cheng (Kelly) is studying Broadcasting with a minor in Journalism and completed her third year at Taylors University Lakeside Campus. She is also a freelance writer at The Star Publications. Ms. Cheng is particularly interested in programs and policies that reduce carbon footprints to conserve energy and encourage recycling. With her background in broadcasting and journalism, she wants to explore and develop innovative solutions to environmental challenges. She hopes to create a documentary film or write pieces that are powerful enough to influence people to make a difference.



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**Mr. Muchamad DAFIP (Dafip)**

*Biology Medical Science, Universitas Diponegoro, Indonesia*

Mr. Muchamad DAFIP (Dafip) is a program officer at the BINTARI Foundation (The Indonesian Association for Environmental Protection and Sustainable Development), an NGO that has been undertaking environment, sustainable development, disaster preparedness and education programs. Additionally, he also runs a local clean water project and a project to strengthen the local mangrove ecosystem. He earned his Master Degree in Biology Medical Science at Universitas Diponegoro. He has worked on mitigating climate change, disaster management, encouraging environmental awareness, and education for sustainable development. His goal is to spread awareness about environmental conservation.



**Mr. Mac Edsel Truno FLORENDO (Mac)**

*Mass Communication, Silliman University, Philippines*

Mr. Mac Edsel Truno Florendo (Mac) is studying Mass Communication and completed his second year at Silliman University and is involved in many environmental projects both locally and globally. In 2013, Mr. Florendo participated in Seed Planters of All Nations in Daejeon, South Korea, where he created a video documentary about his experience as an exchange student in Korea. Mr. Florendo is currently an active member of Cuernos de Negros Mountaineers Club, Inc where he is trained to be a responsible explorer. He considers all his climbs to be clean-up climbs. Mr. Florendo has shown strong interest in environmental issues. He also has interest in photography and filmmaking. His dream is to be a filmmaker with an advocacy to educate the old and the young, and to create public awareness.



**Ms. Sheryl Hui Min FOO (Sheryl)**

*Environmental Studies, Yale-NUS, Singapore*

Ms. Sheryl Hui Min Foo (Sheryl) is a student at Yale-NUS with a major in Environmental Studies. Ms. Foo is deeply concerned about issues like trans-boundary haze pollution, and draws inspiration from America's cutting-edge solutions to environmental problems. She is also passionate about working with marginalized groups like youth and women, and has volunteered to work with people from Myanmar and North Korea. As a writer and thorough researcher, she used her skills to successfully defend urban poor communities whose houses were due for demolition in Davao City. She hopes to work on developing and structuring economic exchange between the U.S and Southeast Asia. She is an active member of the Yale-NUS International Relations and Political Association.



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**Mr. Christian Florendo GINO (Tian)**

*Marine Biology, Mindanao State University - Gen. Santos, Philippines*

Mr. Christian Florendo Gino is studying Marine Biology and completed his second year at Mindanao State University – Gen. Santos. He is interested to learn the environmental issues specifically in marine biodiversity. In 2011, he was an exchange student and Ambassador of Goodwill in American Field Service Japan East Asia Network of Exchanged Students for Youth (AFS JENESYS) in Japan. Mr. Gino believes that by sharing experiences with peers, community groups and other relevant organizations upon returning home will make him understand more about environmental conservation. He hopes to improve his personal development and skills in building relationship with other youth who aspire change. He is also currently an active member and volunteer at Greenpeace International.



**Ms. Siti Nisrina Hasna HUMAIRA (Ines)**

*Agrotechnology (Soil Science), Padjajaran University, Indonesia*

Ms. Siti Nisrina Hasna Humaira completed her second year at Padjajaran University with major in Agrotechnology (Soil Science). Being involved in many volunteering projects, Ms. Humaira works as Non-Governmental Organization Consultant at Young Leaders for Indonesia (YLI) by McKinsey and Company. She currently runs a project called Agroclinics, a youth community that focuses on helping small-scale farmers by giving free consultations about the Sustainable Farming System (SFS). Her future aspiration is to become a professional project manager in FAO. She is also the Local Committee Director of International Association of students in Agricultural and related Sciences (IAAS) at Padjajaran University.



**Ms. Ma. Cathrene Saniel LAGARE (Cath)**

*Environmental Science, Ateneo de Davao University, Philippines*

Ms. Cathrene Saniel Lagare is an Environmental Science major at Ateneo de Davao University. Her interests have led her to be involved with organizations focused on the community and disaster management, health care consciousness and environmental awareness, like Nature Watch Club. She is currently enrolled in “Planetary Boundaries” and “Human Opportunities” classes online hosted by the Stockholm Resilience Center (SRC) and Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN). A life long environmental student she is participating in this program because she firmly believes we all have the power to make change, but it is up to each of us to write what happens next.



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**Mr. Ferth Vandenstein Lusung MANAYSAY (Ferth)**

*Political Science, University of the Philippines-Diliman, Philippines*

Mr. Ferth Vandenstein Lusung Manaysay is a Political Science major at the University of the Philippines Diliman and an up-and-coming Community reporter. He is currently a member of the Philippine Network of Environmental Journalists and the Vice-Chairperson for Disaster Management of the 5<sup>th</sup> ASEAN-Korea Frontier Forum hosted by the Asia Exchange Association, which will have its conference in Busan, South Korea in November 2015. He is interested in the agriculture-food security nexus and presented papers at conferences related to agricultural decentralization in the Philippines. One area he hopes to further his study in is the use of technology and how it can underscore how sustainable agriculture can help improve water quality, enrich biodiversity and foster food security.



**Ms. Almira Banog MENSON (AI)**

*English, Mindanao State University- Marawi, Philippines*

Ms. Almira Banog Menson graduated in 2011 from Mindanao State University Marawi with a degree in English. Interested in policy formulation and the legislative process, Ms. Menson is an active member in the Congressional Internship Program for Young Mindanao Leaders (CIPYML) and works in the Congressional Committee overseeing the Millennium Development Goals. Through this she has found a passion involved with Goal 1, Eradicate Extreme Poverty and Hunger and Goal 7, Ensure Environmental Sustainability. Ms. Menson has co-authored and written papers on a wide range of subjects regarding food security, the conflict in Mindanao and enriching the lives of people living in the area. Most important, Ms. Menson is an educator shaping the lives of her students at home.



**Mr. Mohamad Khalid MOHAMAD KHAIRULLAH (Khalid)**

*Civil Engineering, Institute Technology Brunei, Brunei*

Mr. Mohamad Kalid Mohamad Khairullah is studying Civil Engineering and completed his first year at the Institute of Technology Brunei. An active member in environmental clubs and student leadership, Mr. Mohamad Khairullah invented the first digital hazard map for Brunei and is looking for ways to expand that technology. This map was used in 2014 by the national disaster agency during major flooding happening during this time. Mr. Mohamad Khairullah's passion for the environment also comes from his home because his parents work in the agricultural sector. He is firmly committed to bettering his community and advocating for sustainable environmental practices utilizing technology.



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**Ms. Dk Nur Syazwina PG HJ YASMIN (Wina)**

*Computer Science, Universiti Brunei Darussalam, Brunei*

Ms. Dk Nur Syazwina PG HJ Yasmin is a Computer Science Major at the Universiti Brunei Darussalam where she just finished her third year. During her third year she did a study exchange program at Seoul National University in South Korea where she took a number of courses at the School of Biological Science and Environmental Education. She furthers her passion for environmentalism in her community volunteer work including work at the Center for Children with Special Needs as part of the Working Committee for UBD Freshers' Week. She is a bright young leader, serving as the Vice Secretary for the Executive of International Relations for UBD Asian Pacific Leaders Education Program.



**Mr. Fadlan SATRIA (Fadlan)**

*Agribusiness, University of Lampung, Indonesia*

Mr. Fadlan Satria completed his third year at the University of Lampung studying Agribusiness. Mr. Fadlan Satria is a committed environmentalist and community organizer. He coordinated the university's Agriculture Festival and was the Keynote Speaker at the International Youth Water Justice Summit. He volunteers heavily in his community and served as the Agricultural Ambassador of Lampung University to work with local elementary students on numerous occasions, including a Planting Mangrove activity and Beach Clean-up. He also was an attendee of the Sumatera Peace Summit and led the Plastic Diet Campaign. Mr. Fadlan Satria leads through action and bridges environmental initiatives with community engagement.



**Mr. Thinesh SELVARAJOO (Nesh)**

*Chemical/Environmental Engineering, University of Nottingham Malaysia, Malaysia*

Mr. Thinesh Selvarajoo is a third year Chemical with Environmental Engineering student at the University of Nottingham Malaysia. He believes the youth are a powerful force for environmental protection and social change. He has worked with Kebangsaan Petroleum (KPOC) where he interned in the Health, Safety and Environment Department and completed a project to increasing the facilities recycling and waste management systems. He is the President of the Rotaract Club at UNMC and VP of Marketing and Recruitment of Enactus UNMC. He plans to share the information from the fellowship with his peers and be an instrument of civic improvement, focused on environmental friendliness and resource management.



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**Ms. Shian Feen SER (Feen)**

*Environmental Science and Management, University of Malaya, Malaysia*

Ms. Shian Feen Ser is an Environmental Science and Management student at the University of Malaya where she just completed her third year. Ms. Ser is from Kota Bahru, Kelantan, a conservative state on the East coast of peninsular Malaysia and has been a Youth Leader, which helped her form partnerships and networks with various stakeholders. Ms. Ser is a passionate community builder and engages the community through her numerous volunteer programs including We 1-2 Be Green club and the Buddhist Society of the University. She would like to share her experiences as a youth in Malaysia with others both in the U.S. and other participants from the region. Ms. Ser is keen to develop programs that help diminish waste and transform it into other usable materials.



**Mr. Hendra Edison SIMANULANG (Siman)**

*Agroecotechnology, Sriwijaya University, Indonesia*

Mr. Hendra Edison Simanulang completed his second year at Sriwijaya University studying Agroecotechnology. Hendra's interest is in sustainable agriculture. He spent a semester in Thailand learning sustainable agriculture from an international perspective and wants to make those ideas applicable in Indonesia. He has big goals to develop an organic farming system that can be implemented widely to help preserve the environment and help with food security. He has a good understanding of the connection between agricultural practices and environmental conservation - a key issue in this country. One goal he has for the program is to allow YSEALI to open a new world for him to broaden his mind and to better understand global issues and how his home fits into that pattern.



**Ms. Anindita Rustandi TJETJEP (Dita)**

*Marine Science, Padjadjaran University, Indonesia*

Ms. Anindita Rustandi is the Regional Coordinator of West Manggarai and Komodo Region of MantaWatch. She graduated from the Padjadjaran University with a degree in Marine Science. Anindita is currently working in an area of critical importance to the environment in Indonesia - the oceans, with a particular interest in manta rays. The state of the waters around Indonesia, and even manta rays, get a lot of attention internationally, but we don't see a large number of individuals, especially young people, with this interest. She is focused and passionate about the protection and management of the oceans. She also does work with community groups and has led scuba dive experiences and Coral Reef education trips.



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**Mr. Chee Ying TONG (Jeffrey)**  
*Environmental Studies, Yale-NUS, Singapore*

Mr. Chee Ying Tong completed his first year at Yale-Nanyang University Singapore with major in Environmental Studies. His main environmental concern is the rising rate of global consumption and the consequences of that on the environment. In 2011, his team emerged first in the National Climate Change Competition organized by the Climate Change Secretariat for their innovative ideas to transform freshwater bodies into aquaponics farms. In the same year, he also led an 18-member team on a Youth Expedition Project to Vietnam working on alleviating water pollution problems through the use of sustainable technologies and practices. He currently spearheads the Edible Gardens Initiative on his school's campus as an executive committee member of the Yale-NUS College Sustainability Movement.



**Ms. Patricia Bi Yi WONG (Patricia)**  
*International Economics, University Malaysia Sarawak, Malaysia*

Ms. Patricia Bi Yi Wong is an International Economics major at the University of Malaysia Sarawak. Her long-term goal is to expand and help develop comprehensive and viable solutions to overcome global challenges regarding water, food and energy. She thinks a regional perspective on these challenges will benefit the ASEAN nations as the countries not only share similar problems, but also view them through a similar development and cultural lens. To this end, she volunteers in her community working on projects for Habitat for Humanity's Borneo Blitz Build and for the Malaysia Public Policy Competition in 2014. Her drive is to explore new ideas and to build connections with different people and put into practice lessons learned in the classroom environment.



**Mr. Amrullah Rosadi (Amrullah)**  
*Marine Science, Diponegoro University, Indonesia*

Mr. Amrullah Rosadi completed his degree in Marine Science from Diponegoro University and has developed a good body of knowledge about one aspect of the environment that is of critical importance to Indonesia, the mangrove ecosystem. He has a depth of experience working with mangroves, including work with a Mangrove Education Event for an Elementary School, a Mangrove Cultivation for Coastal Communities Project and a study on Mangrove and Coastal Erosion. He not only has experience working in that particular ecosystem, but he has already started to spread his knowledge to younger audiences. He is dedicated to working with the coastal region and utilizing mangrove development, cultivation and stewardship to reduce poverty in coastal villages.