In Collaboration with



Content

NETWORK INTRODUCTION 6

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY 8

PARTICIPANT AND SPEAKER LIST 9

AAN EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS 2020 - 2022 11

CONGRESS PROGRAM 12

Kuala Lumpur STATEMENT ON AUTISM 13

Photos 15

NETWORK INTRODUCTION

A network on Autism in the ASEAN region (AAN) was established with “Family Comes First” as a core concept during the Autism Workshop organized by Asia-Pacific Development Center on Disability (APCD) in cooperation with Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) in Bangkok on 13-15 December 2010. The Autism Congress was held by The Association of Parents for Thai Persons with Autism (Thailand),

Ministry of Social Development and Human Security (Thailand), Khun Poom Foundation (Thailand) and APCD in collaboration with JICA on 16-17 December 2010 as a back-to-back event.

This newly born network must bring an exciting beginning to the Autism community in the ASEAN region. Being an effective forum in the ASEAN countries, AAN can work at the national and sub-regional levels to advocate for the rights of persons with autism. Finally, the Network can support Self-advocates to form their own groups at the community level.

This unique gathering brought 27 representatives from 9 countries, including Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Thailand and Vietnam. Each participant had an autistic person in their family, which illustrated the nature of the Workshop.

The Constitution of AAN was thoroughly examined and critiqued by all participants with Mr. Akiie Ninomiya, APCD Executive Director as a facilitator. The Constitution was finally adopted and agreed upon at the Inaugural General Assembly of AAN. The first AAN Executive Committee is composed of representatives from each country. Mr. Chusak Janthayanond, President of the Association of Parents for Thai Persons with Autism was is the first AAN Chairperson. Mr. Noy Indavong, from Lao Autism Association, was Honorary Chairperson. The two Deputy Chairpersons are Mr. Malai Hj Abdullah Othman from Brunei Darussalam and Mr. Haji Bistaman Siru Abd Rahman from Malaysia. AAN expected to have representative from Singapore join this Network eventually.



Exchanging Views on Autism during the Workshop

The idea to initiate ASEAN Autism Network was inspired by the 5th APCD Workshop for the Capacity Development of Self-Help Organizations of Persons with Disabilities (CDSHOD) in Bangkok, in January 2010. An idea to establish Autism Networking in the ASEAN region was proposed and informally agreed to by the family members of the autism community from Brunei Darussalam, Myanmar, the Philippines, Vietnam, and Thailand. It was proposed that the Network is a platform to engage and empower all parents' groups and self-help organizations on autism that would work for an autism-friendly ASEAN region. To support this movement therefore, APCD decided to organize the Autism Network Workshop in the ASEAN region in the end of year. This three-day workshop aimed to establish the Autism Parents' Network in the ASEAN Region and formulate an Action Plan at the regional level. In addition, a few key activities were incorporated including a country situational analysis, a field trip to Mahannaparam School, a mainstream school, and the Bangkok Autism Vocational Center.

The mission of AAN is to support, assist, facilitate and enhance autism-related family support groups in collaboration with other stakeholders in the ASEAN region and globally. One of the main objectives is to educate, develop, and give opportunities for autism-related family support groups of each member country, helping them to grow towards achieving global standards with reference to the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) and other international and regional instruments related to autism.



Presentation by Participants from ASEAN Countries in the Congress

AAN serves as a platform for autism-related family support groups of each ASEAN member country to collaborate, cooperate, coordinate, and unite in developing *a holistic curriculum1* exclusively for autism that is local, affordable, accessible and inexpensive to ensure sustainability throughout the life-span of individuals with autism. Such strategies and intervention programs are non-discriminatory in support of families, including those economically challenged. More importantly, the extended family structure on which the ASEAN community is based will remain the core of any developmental program and strategies.

At present, AAN regional action plan consists of four main working committees; 1) the Public Relation and Information Committee 2) the Research and Development Committee 3) the Fundraising and Sponsorship Committee and 4) the Learning, Education and Training Committee.

Recently, AAN has been formally accredited and endorsed by ASEAN Secretariat to be the Entity Associated with ASEAN on 15 July 2020. The London School Centre for Autism Awareness (LSCAA) promises to assist this family network and keep up the spirit of "Act for Autism now!". LSCAA has become the new Network Secretariat. Then AAN Secretariat was transferred from Bangkok to Jakarta. Additionally, LSCAA, as the new AAN's Secretariat, will collaborate and support this network in order to further enhance and promote the wellbeing of individuals with autism throughout the ASEAN region while APCD will continue to support AAN country members as a partner.

1 A holistic curriculum is an all-embracing curriculum that takes into account the social, emotional, educational, economical, technical, and spiritual perspectives of individuals with autism, their families and relevant communities of that member country

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

On 14 December 2020, the National Autism Society of Malaysia (NASOM) hosted the 5th ASEAN Autism Network (AAN) Congress via virtual platform in collaboration with the ASEAN Autism Network (AAN), the London School Centre for Autism Awareness (LSCAA), the Asia-Pacific Development Center on Disability (APCD) and the ASEAN Secretariat. AAN hold its first formal virtual assembly due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The purposes of Congress were to commemorate AAN’s tenth anniversary, to congratulate the endorsement of a new entity associated with ASEAN, and to organize a handover ceremony for the chairmanship of the

AAN Executive Committee Members to Malaysia and the new Network Secretariat to Indonesia, respectively. There were 31 key participants and speakers from nine ASEAN countries and Japan. Unfortunately, Brunei's delegate was unable to attend. The activities include a video presentation commemorating the AAN's tenth year achievement, congratulatory messages from Mr. Romeo Arca, Jr., a representative from the ASEAN Secretariat, the handover of the AAN secretariat from Thailand to Indonesia, the handover of the AAN chairperson from Indonesia to Malaysia and the presentation of the AAN members' country report. In response to normal and emergency time, representatives from each AAN country member, the Autism Society Japan, the Ageless Bicyclist, LSCAA, APCD and SDD-UNESCAP exchanging good practices on keep children with autism from the COVID-19 and its future direction. After the election of new AAN executive board members (2020 to 2022) and the presentation of country report, Mr. Julian Wong, the Chairperson of the National Autism Society of Malaysia (NASOM) shared his vision on autism movement. Then, Mr. Cason Ong Tzsechun, the 5th AAN Chairperson announced the "Kuala Lumpur Statement on Autism" including the way forward for the new AAN decade as a key output of the Congress. In the meantime, the AAN secretariat Office was formally transferred from APCD to LSCAA. APCD reaffirmed its commitment to collaborating with AAN country members and the new secretariat to empower autism-related family groups throughout the ASEAN region and globally.

PARTICIPANT LIST

ASEAN SECRETARIAT		
1	Mr. Romeo Arca, Jr.	Assistant Director, Community Relation Division, Community Affairs Directorate, Community & Corporate Affairs Department
UNESCAP		
2	Ms. Aiko Akiyama	Social Affairs Officer Social Development Division

CAMBODIA		
3	Mr. Sarin Chan	Cambodia Autism Network
INDONESIA		
4	Dr. Adriana Ginanjar	Yayasan Autisma Indonesia
5	Dr. Siti Khalimah	Indonesia Ministry of Health
JAPAN		
6	Dr. Yukinori Sawae	Autism Society Japan
LAO PDR		
7	Mr Syvang Xayyavong	Association for Autism in Laos
8	Ms Viengsam Indavong	
MALAYSIA		
9	Yb Senator Ras Adiba	Senator Of Dewan Negara – Represent of persons with disabilities, Community of Malaysia
10	Dato Megat Ahmad Shahrani Bin Megat Shahruddin	National Autism Society of Malaysia
11	Mr. Julian Wong	
12	Mr. Cason Ong Tzsechun	
MYANMAR		
13	Mr. Nay Myo Naing	Myanmar Autism Association
14	Ms. Nan San San Myint	
15	Ms. Ohnmar Soe	
PHILIPPINES		
16	Ms. Mona Veluz	Autism Society Philippines
17	Ms. Cecile Sicam	
18	Mr. Dang Koe	
SINGAPORE		
19	Mr. Dennis Ang	Autism Network Singapore
20	Mr. Malcom Chen	Ageless Bicyclist
21	Ms. Beatrice Chen	AWWA
THAILAND		
22	Dr. Samrerng Virachanang	Association of Parents of Thai Persons with Autism
VIETNAM		
23	Ms. Pham Thi Kim Tam	Vietnam Autism Network
24	Mr. Tran Van Ninh	
LSCAA		
25	Ms. Prita Kemal Gani	London School Center for Autism Awareness/ London School of Public Relations
26	Dr. Chrisdina Wempi	
27	Ms. Candy Hernandez	
APCD		
28	Mr. Piroon Laismit	

29	Mr. Somchai Rungsilp	Asia-Pacific Development Center on Disability
30	Mr. Watcharapol Chuengcharoen	
31	Ms. Supaanong Panyasirimongkol	

AAN EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS (2020 – 2022)

Role	Name & Organization	Country
Honorary Chairperson	Dr. Adriana Ginanjar *Yayasan Autisma Indonesia*	Indonesia
Chairperson	Mr. Cason Ong Tzsechun *National Autism Society of Malaysia*	Malaysia
Deputy Chairperson	Mr. Syvang Xayyavong *Association for Autism in Laos*	Lao PDR
Deputy Chairperson	Ms. Pham Kim Tam *Vietnam Autism Network*	Vietnam
Honorary Treasurer	Mr. Nay Myo Naing *Myanmar Autism Association*	Myanmar
Honorary Secretary	Mr. Chan Sarin *Cambodia Autism Network*	Cambodia
Chairperson of Public Relations and Information Committee	Ms. Erlinda Koe *Autism Society Philippines*	Philippines
Chairperson of Research and Development Committee	Ms. Adila Malai Othman *SMARTER Brunei*	Brunei
Chairperson of Fundraising and Sponsorship Committee	Dr. Samrerng Virachanang *Association of Parents of Thai Persons with Autism*	Thailand
Chairperson of Working Committee	Ms. Beatrice Chen *Autism Network Singapore*	Singapore
Secretary General	Ms. Prita Kemal Gani *London School Center for Autism Awareness*	Indonesia

Agreed on at 5th AAN Congress, hosted by NASOM in collaboration with LSCAA, APCD and ASEC via Zoom platform
Dated 14 December 2020

CONGRESS PROGRAM

14 December 2020

Time	Sessions
08:30 – 09:00	Assembly Opening
09:00 - 09.10	Opening ceremony by YB Senator Puan Ras Adiba Radzi, Senator of Dewan Negara represents Persons with Disabilities Community of Malaysia.
09:10 -09:.15	Congratulation to Accreditation of AAN as entity Associated with ASEAN 1) speech by Mr. Romeo Arca, Assistant Director, Community Relation Division, Community Affairs Directorate, Community & Corporate Affairs Department
09:15 – 09:25	Handover Ceremony of AAN Chairperson from Indonesia to Malaysia 1) Speech by Outgoing Chairperson Dr. Adriana S Ginanjar 2) Speech by Incoming Chairperson Mr. Cason Ong Tzsechun
09:25 – 09:30	Performance by NASOM Maestros
09:30 – 09:45	Video presentation 1. Singapore 2. Philippines 3. Indonesia 4. Thailand
09:45 – 10:00	Handover Ceremony Thailand to Indonesia (AAN Office Secretariat) 1) Speech by Mr. Piroon Laismit, APCD Executive Director 2) Speech by Ms. Prita Kemal Gani, Founder, LSPR
10:00 – 11:30	AAN Conference Topic: COVID-19 “THE IMPACT TO PEOPLE WITH AUTISM”
11:30 – 11:45	Election AAN Executive Board Member
11:45 – 12:25	Lunch
12:25 – 12:35	Video presentation 1. Myanmar 2. Cambodia 3. Vietnam 4. Laos
12:35 – 12:45	Speech by NASOM Chairperson (10 minutes)
12:45 – 12:10	10th Anniversary of AAN
13:10 – 13:40	Next decade of AAN
13:40 – 13:55	Kuala Lumpur Recommendation-Declaration
13:55 – 14:05	Closing Ceremony & Group Photo

KUALA LUMPUR STATEMENT ON AUTISM

We, the representatives of persons with autism, family groups and organizations for persons with autism from the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Member States, including Singapore, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Viet Nam and Thailand, in total 31 persons, participated in the 5th ASEAN Autism Congress, via zoom Online meeting on 14th December 2020

We sincerely thank the organizers, The National Autism Society of Malaysia (NASOM) in collaboration with the Asia-Pacific Development Center on Disability (APCD) and LSCAA (AAN Secretariat Jakarta), with support from the YB Senator Puan Ras Adiba Radzi, Senator Of Dewan Negara represents Persons with Disabilities Community of Malaysia and welfare department of Malaysia for the implementation of the congress.

Workshop Topic 1: COVID-19 "THE IMPACT TO PEOPLE WITH AUTISM

Our collective statement on the above are as follows;

1. The online learning has become the new normal like wearing a mask, sanitizing and social distancing.
2. The physical activities are also cannot be run.
3. Parents are also stressed as everyone has to under 'home arrest' and with children with autism is further stressed.
4. Children getting restless depression, anxiety and mental health issue.
5. Socializing is the worst win clearance on high functioning Persons with Autism.

Workshop Topic 2: NEXT DECADE

ASEAN Autism Network (AAN): Future Direction towards Next Decade

ASEAN Autism Network as Network of parents of persons with Autism in the ASEAN Countries which has established since 2010 in Bangkok, Thailand. Asia-Pacific Development Centre on Disability (APCD) has been the secretariat from the beginning. With the age of 10 years, AAN will moving forward for the next decade. These following ideas are proposed as future direction towards next decade;

1. **Moving to be self-reliant, sustainable, and autonomous:**
   AAN should move to be self-reliant, sustainable, and autonomous entity at ASEAN level. It is very positive situation so far since AAN is entity associated with ASEAN

Secretariat and AAN Secretariat will be move its station from Bangkok to Jakarta under umbrella of AAN Foundation in Indonesia with supported by London School of Public Relations (LSPR) and London School Centre for Autism Awareness (LSCAA). With this official entity, AAN can get support on AAN activities directly from ASEAN Secretariat and other donors. With bottom-up approach, AAN could promote self-reliance from country level in order to strengthen AAN at regional level. AAN has to mobilize internal and external resources which include human resources, information, material, knowledge, etc for building up better future of AAN which "self-reliance, sustainability and autonomous entity: are the key words to move forwards as goal in the next decade.

2. **Initiation of AAN International Self-Advocate Network:**
   Along with existing network of self-help groups of parents, AAN should initiate network of self-advocate of persons with Autism in ASEAN level. National group of self-advocates of persons with Autism needs to be formed in all member countries, then AAN could provide and facilitate "Platform" for forming international network of self-advocate in the future. AAN should put this moving as main agenda for the next decade.

3. **Strengthening on Collaboration among AAN members for better treatment of Persons with Autism at country and regional level:**
   Strengthening on collaboration among AAN members and support AAN country level in order to harmonize the actions on movement regards awareness raising, improvement of services, data collection, treatments and interventions for persons with Autism at national and regional level. This direction is aiming to ensure better quality of life of persons with Autism in the next decade. Some concrete actions could be done together at regional level while some actions could be focused in some specific countries.

4. **Cooperation with other Stakeholders for Promoting of Inclusive Society for All:**
   As one of civil society organization, AAN should cooperate with other stakeholders which include government, non-government, community organizations and others at national and international levels for promoting inclusive society. Various sectors/ issues, apart from "Disability sector/ issue" could be considered to participate by AAN, such as issues of gender, climate change, active citizens, food security, etc. since "Inclusive Society for All" is AAN's commitment towards next decade as well.

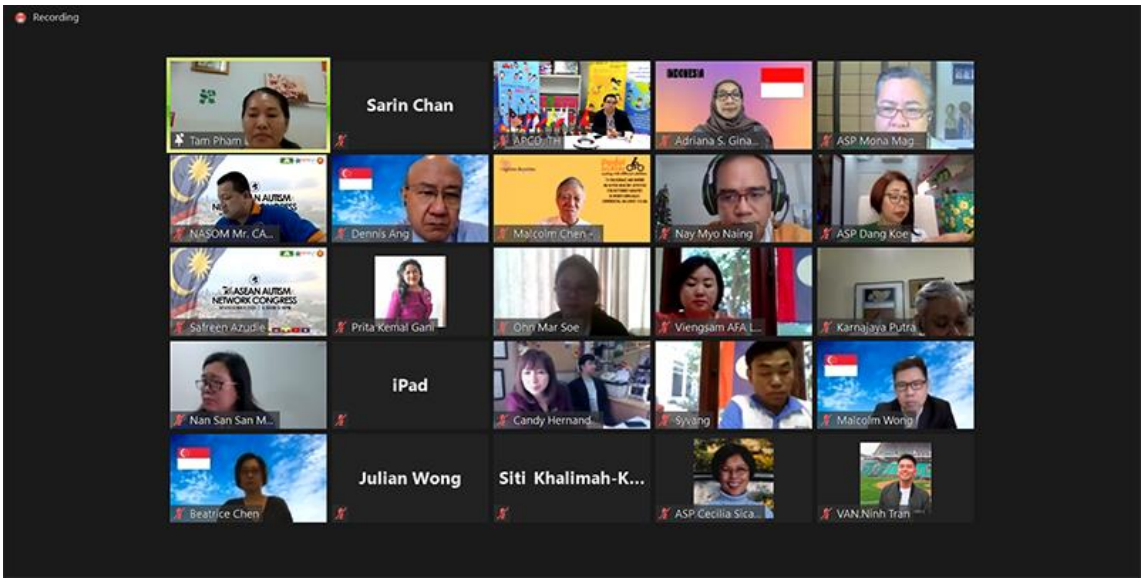
Unanimously agreed by all participant at the 5th ASEAN Autism Congress
14th December 2020



Mr. Cason Ong Tzsechun, AAN Chairperson

PHOTOS

The 5th ASEAN Autism Network (AAN) Congress hosted by National Autism Society of Malaysia (NASOM) in cooperation with AAN, APCD, and LSCAA on 14 December 2020



31 participants from the autism community in ASEAN countries and Japan, including representatives from ASEAN Secretariat, Social Development Division-ESCAP, AAN Executive Board Members, AAN associated member, LSCAA, and APCD joined the first Virtual Congress.



Speech of congratulations on the accreditation of AAN as entity association with ASEAN by Mr. Romeo Jr. Abad Arca, Assistant Director of Community Relation Division, Community Affairs Directorate, ASEAN Community & Corporate Affairs Department, ASEAN Secretariat.



Farewell message by the former AAN chairperson (2018 - 2020), Dr. Adriana Ginanjar from Indonesia.



Commitment message by the new AAN chairperson (2020 - 2022), Mr. Cason Ong Tzsechun from Malaysia who is the new head of the Executive Committee.



The official handover ceremony of the AAN chairmanship from Indonesia to Malaysia.



Official handover of AAN Secretariat from Thailand to Indonesia.



Dr. Sawae Yukinori, representative from Autism Society of Japan/ Associated member of AAN, shared experiences from Japan on project involvement with persons with special needs during COVID-19 pandemic.



Ms. Aiko Akiyama, Representative from SDD-UNESCAP, encouraged AAN country members to exchange good practices on keeping children with disabilities safe from COVID-19, and congratulated AAN on 10th anniversary achievements.

END