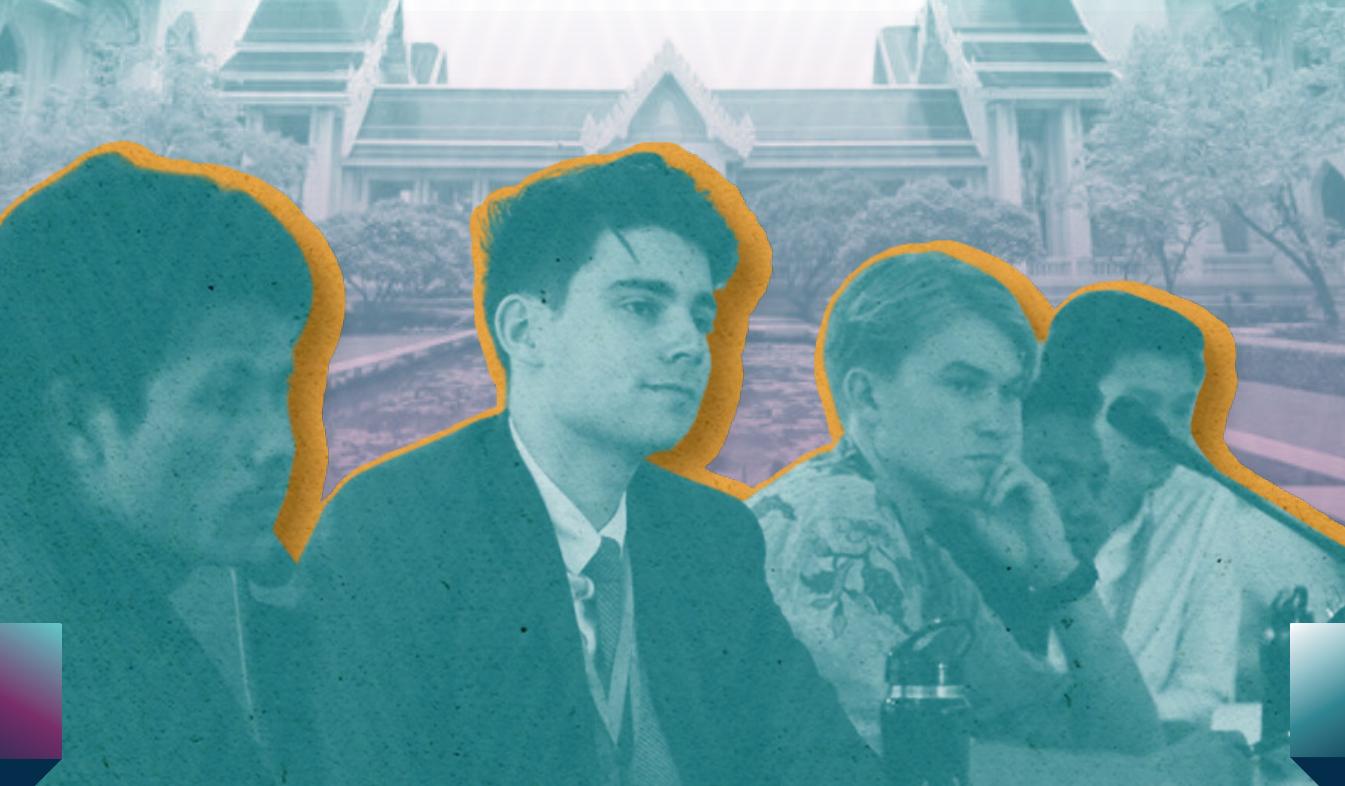




DEBATE 2 REGULATE  
FUTURE ONLINE SAFETY LEADERS

# Debate 2 Regulate

Future Online Safety Leaders



## DELEGATES HANDBOOK

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# Welcome!



# Welcome!

## Message From AASYP

We are incredibly excited to welcome all the delegates, speakers and special guests to **Debate to Regulate (D2R) Future Online Safety Leaders**, a two-day Model UN-style conference which will be held in Bangkok, Thailand. The D2R program aims to foster deeper regional cooperation and dialogue between aspiring leaders in Australia and ASEAN in the space of online safety, focusing on developing a rights-based regulatory framework.

The D2R initiative is brought to you by the Australian eSafety Commissioner in collaboration with ASEAN-Australia Strategic Youth Partnership (**AASYP**). AASYP is a youth-led initiative to drive dialogue, partnership and innovation between young people aged 18-29 years from across ASEAN and Australia. We envision a generation of influential young leaders equipped with the skills and knowledge to engage with each other on the most pressing issues facing the region.

We thank the AASYP volunteers for their effort, ideas, collaboration, and hard work to bring the D2R program to life. It has been a joy to see the pieces come together to form what will be a fantastic experience for our delegates, and hopefully for you, our volunteers, as well.

We are deeply grateful for our partners who have supported and enabled this program. In the past, AASYP has held various forums and dialogues, but this inaugural Model UN-style conference would not have happened without the incredible team at the eSafety Commissioner, particularly Ms Sara Aurorae, who is the brain behind the program and has worked tirelessly to support and guide the delegates and team leaders.

We would also like to thank our valued partner, ASEAN University Network (AUN), for providing us with the space to host the event. Thank you as well to the Australian Embassy in Bangkok for hosting us for a night of networking and insightful panel discussion, "The imperative for online safety in the ASEAN region". Last but not least, we would also like to thank the Chair, Mr Joel Lisk, for lending his time and effort to chair the conference and make this event a success!

Of course, the D2R program is nothing without our distinguished delegates made up of young people of varying ages, genders, professions, nationalities, and backgrounds from across 6 countries in the ASEAN-Australia region. We are sure you will bring a wealth of knowledge and enthusiasm to this event. We look forward to meeting you in person and hearing your thoughts, ideas, and insights on the very topical issue of online safety and human rights. Through this experience, we hope that you will form lasting friendships with your fellow delegates and peers. From all of us at AASYP, we are keen to see what each of you will achieve and contribute to the region as future online safety leaders.



**Atitaya (Angie) Suriyasenee**  
D2R Director



**Racheline Tantular**  
Chief Executive Officer



**Adelaide Pope**  
Chief Operating Officer  
D2R Program Lead



**Georgia Henderson**  
Chief Executive Officer

# Message from the eSafety Commissioner



Online safety is a global challenge that requires a collaborative response.

eSafety recognises that improving online safety has to be an international effort, because online interaction is not confined by national borders. This is why we share information and work with governments, organisations and experts around the world.

We are involved in many alliances and capacity-building projects. We also contribute to international debates, discussions and projects on online safety matters that affect Australians.

eSafety is delivering online safety projects in Southeast Asia and the Pacific, with funding under the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade Cyber and Critical Technology Program.

The **Debate 2 Regulate: Future Online Safety Leaders** is an initiative that prioritises youth insights, perspectives and aspirations. eSafety believes that young people offer valuable perspectives about the issues they face online, and as our future leaders, will help to create a safer and more responsible digital environment worldwide. By engaging with young people from across the ASEAN region, eSafety is building greater cooperation and engagement in our region.



**Ella Serry**  
International Engagement Manager  
eSafety Commissioner

# Message from the Chair of the D2R Conference



Dear **Debate 2 Regulate (D2R) Future Online Safety Leaders** Participants,

It is my privilege to welcome you to the D2R event delivered by the ASEAN-Australia Strategic Youth Partnership and the eSafety Commissioner of Australia. I will be chairing the event over 2 and 3 May in Thailand.

The rapid evolution of the internet over the last two decades has presented opportunities for humanity to increase connectivity across the globe. The internet also presents serious challenges and risks that governments, organisations and individuals are seeking to address.

The interaction of human rights and the online realm is a live and developing area. Questions of how human rights apply to the online domain, who is responsible for the protection of human rights, and what rights need to be protected are all live and important questions.

Over the course of this event, we aim to explore the multifaceted dimensions of online safety, acknowledging both the risks and opportunities that the internet presents to individuals across the countries that you will be representing.

I hope the D2R event presents you with the opportunity to explore this important and developing area with an open mind and willingness to learn. I am confident that this event will also leave you with a lasting understanding of the relationship between safety, human rights and the digital environment that you can take back to your home countries and continue this very important conversation.



**Joel Lisk**  
Chair of the D2R Conference  
*Flinders University*

# Message from the ASEAN University Network (AUN) Secretariat



Dear Debate 2 Regulate Delegates,

On behalf of the ASEAN University Network (AUN) Secretariat, it is with great pleasure that I offer this letter in support of the upcoming ASEAN-Australia Strategic Youth Partnership (AASYP) Debate to Regulate (D2R) programme.

Cooperation and partnership are the keystone for progress and development. Currently, we are witnessing a surge in cross-regional collaboration across various sectors, driving momentum and fostering engagement. Similarly, youth mobility and engagement play a significant role in higher education, offering students enriching experiences and global learning opportunities through interactions with international peers and cross-border networking.

I see a similar spirit cooperation and partnership being cultivated in this D2R programme by AASYP. Organised in hybrid and the Model UN conference simulation, this programme provides an invaluable platform that connects youth from ASEAN and Australia together with the aim of cultivating knowledge, practical as well as critical skills on human rights and online safety. In crafting evidenced-based policies alongside their regional peers through workshops, debates and discussion, I see great potential that the delegates of D2R will be able to immerse themselves in creativity, shrewdness and possibilities. Their fresh perspectives hold great promise towards generating new and innovative solutions that reflect the diverse needs of our communities.

AUN, being a hub of excellence in promoting university-levelled collaboration and organising youth platforms across the ASEAN Plus Three region itself, recognises the invaluable experiences youth from ASEAN and Australia stand to gain participating in this programme. In this regard, I would like to reiterate my highest support and gratitude to AASYP as well as all other partners of D2R for making this programme possible. To our selected delegates of D2R this year, I look forward to seeing you have fun, learn, engage and thrive to become the compassionate, dedicated leaders of tomorrow.

Sincerely,



**Choltis Dhirathiti, Ph.D.**  
AUN Executive Director

# About

## The Organizers





## About AASYP

### Our Mission

The ASEAN-Australia Strategic Youth Partnership (AASYP) empowers young people aged 18-29 years old from across ASEAN and Australia to connect with each other and the most pressing problems of today.

We build young people's expertise and engagement with ASEAN-Australia affairs, and provide tangible opportunities for young people to engage in promoting peace and prosperity across the relationship.

Using our platform we build knowledge, inspire engagement and create connections to give young people a voice on the complex regional issues that need to be solved together.

AASYP is a registered Australian charity.



### Our History

ASEAN-Australia Strategic Youth Partnership (AASYP) was founded by New Colombo Plan scholars and alumni who identified a lack of understanding between the people of Australia and Southeast Asia.

Flagship programmes, including the Young Leaders Forum (held in Jakarta in 2019, online in 2022 and Kuala Lumpur in 2023), RESET: Youth Innovation hackathon, Digital Dialogues, Break the Chain and the Indo-Pacific Future Leaders Programme, have brought together thousands of young people across the region.

Be a part of the story. Find your own path at AASYP to learn, inspire and connect: <https://aasyp.org>



## Julie Inman Grant

eSafety Commissioner



The eSafety Commissioner (eSafety) is Australia's independent regulator and educator for online safety. eSafety represents the Australian Government's commitment to protecting citizens from serious online harms.

eSafety started operations in 2015 as the Children's eSafety Commissioner, but since then its remit has expanded to cover online safety for all Australians.

eSafety's mission is to help safeguard Australians at risk from online harms, and to promote safer, more positive online experiences. Online harms are activities that take place wholly or partially online that can damage an individual's social, emotional, psychological, financial or even physical safety.

eSafety helps to keep Australians safer online by countering online harms, improving online safety, and exercising regulatory powers under a holistic framework that comprises three pillars:

- **Prevention:** Provide evidence-based safety resources and programs
- **Protection:** Operate regulatory schemes and investigate abuse
- **Proactive and Systemic Change:** Identify emerging risks and ensure industry minimises harm.

We underpin these pillars with a focus on **Partnerships** – recognising that a single entity working alone will not achieve the outcomes needed to create a safer digital environment.

The eSafety Commissioner is an independent statutory office holder responsible to the Australian Government Minister for Communications. Julie Inman Grant is currently Australia's eSafety Commissioner. Commissioner Inman Grant has extensive experience in the non-profit and government sectors and spent two decades working in senior public policy and safety roles in the tech industry at Microsoft, Twitter and Adobe.



# eSafety

**Safety by Design** is an initiative that encourages the technology sector to put user safety and rights at the centre of the design, development, and deployment of online products and services. It was developed by the eSafety Commissioner following broad consultation with the tech industry, as well as NGOs, advocates, parents and young people.

Safety by Design provides online services with a set of realistic, actionable and achievable measures to better protect and safeguard individuals and communities online. Rather than retrofitting safeguards after a harm has occurred, Safety by Design focuses on the ways technology companies can minimise online threats by assessing risks upfront and anticipating, detecting and eliminating foreseeable online harms before they occur.

At the heart of Safety by Design are three principles that provide platforms and services with guidance as they incorporate, assess and enhance user safety.

- **Service provider responsibility**
- **User empowerment and autonomy**
- **Transparency and accountability.**

Research and consultation for Safety by Design began in 2018. It now includes:

- a set of principles that position user safety as a fundamental design consideration
- interactive assessment tools for enterprise and start up technology companies
- resources for investors and financial entities
- engagement with the tertiary education sector to embed Safety by Design into curricula around the world.



# Debate 2 Regulate (D2R)

As recognised by the UN and ASEAN, young people and tertiary students will be the future leaders to shape cyber policy and online safety regulation. The D2R program aims to shape a new generation of policymakers, lawyers, diplomats, ethicists and other professionals by simulating a special UN committee where discussions between young people from Australia and Southeast Asia will unfold on how online safety regulation can be regulated with human rights in the forefront.

## Overview

The D2R conference will take place over two days in Bangkok on 2 and 3 May 2024 with teams from Australia, Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand, Philippines, and Vietnam.

Each country is represented by three delegates, and a team leader whose role is to support the team. Teams will have the opportunity to develop and refine their Position Papers, Presentations, and Working Papers prior to the 2-day conference.

Deliverable	Description
<b>Position Paper</b>	The Position Paper describes and outlines a team's position on the proposed framework to regulate online harms using a rights-based approach to online safety.
<b>Presentation</b>	Three delegates from each team will present for 7 minutes on the question allocated to the delegate. Each delegate will be allocated one question, which the delegates have received in advance.
<b>Working Paper</b>	The Working Paper is a draft document with each team's position on, and proposals to, the Draft Resolution.  Teams will work through the Working Paper during the debate to incorporate changes/amendments, including those achieved through negotiations with other teams.
<b>Debating</b>	<b>Day one:</b> each delegate (other than the team leader) will deliver a 7-minute Presentation for the question they are allocated.  <b>Day two:</b> the teams will engage in a debate over the clauses in the Draft Resolution.

## Draft Resolution

Each team will receive a Draft Resolution that they will need to amend. This is where teams can really think about what is important to them as a group and what they would like to see internationally.

The Draft Resolution will consist of both preambulatory clauses (words which call upon previous UN resolutions, locate the situation in a certain context, and are separated by commas) – and operative clauses (specific verbs and phrases which call for a specific course of action).

Each team will provide amendments through a Country Working Paper, where they must be prepared to explain and defend the suggested amendments. These amendments will be the basis of the debates at the event, where each country will need to vote for or against an amendment.



Debate 2 Regulate

A/B1/01/C.1/Rev.1

Distr.: Limited  
3 - 4 May 2024

Original: English

**First session  
First Youth  
Committee on  
Online Safety**

Agenda item 01 (a)

**Promotion and protection of human rights and  
online safety: human rights questions, including  
approaches for improving the effective enjoyment  
of human rights and fundamental freedoms in the  
digital environment**

**Australia, Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Thailand, and Vietnam: revised  
draft resolution**

**Promotion and protection of human rights and online safety  
in the context of digital technologies**

*The Youth Committee on Online Safety,*

**PP1** *Reaffirming the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, the human rights and fundamental freedoms enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights<sup>1</sup> and international human rights treaties,*

**PP2** *Reaffirming that all human rights are universal, indivisible, interrelated, interdependent and mutually reinforcing, and affirming that the same rights that people have offline must also be protected online, including the right to privacy, safety, and security,*

## Draft Resolution

A/B1/01/C.1/Rev.1

threats and acts of sexual and gender-based violence, death threats, unlawful surveillance and tracking, trafficking in persons, and extortion,

**PP7** *Recognising* the essential role of digital services providers in providing a safe and beneficial digital environment, and having regard to the Guidelines for Digital Service Providers and in line with the Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights, meet their responsibility to avoid causing or contributing to adverse human rights impacts through their own activities, and address such impacts as they occur, and to seek to prevent or mitigate adverse human rights impacts that are directly linked to their operations, products or services, whether directly or indirectly by their business relationships, even if they have not contributed to those impacts,

**PP8** *Recalling* that the obligation and the primary responsibility to promote and protect human rights and fundamental freedoms lies with the State, taking note of the report entitled “Road map for digital cooperation”, as well as all relevant reports of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, including the report on human rights and technical standard-setting processes for new and emerging digital technologies,

Calls upon all Member States:

- C1.** to *promote* and protect an open, safe, secure, stable, free, interoperable, inclusive, accessible and peaceful digital technology environment, and protect human rights and fundamental freedoms both online and offline, including freedom of speech, and to recognise that violence, hatred, discrimination and hostility, including sexism and homophobia, have a deep negative impact on the enjoyment of human rights that require a comprehensive response in accordance with international human rights law to prevent and eliminate all forms of violence and harassment in digital contexts,
- C2.** to *develop* and implement legislation, in consultation with the public and private sectors, including business enterprises and international organisations, with effective sanctions and appropriate remedies, that protects individuals against online harms, including violations of their human rights and abuse in the digital context, and to ensure that when setting any rules, whether law or policy, of engagement in digital environments, they must be grounded in international human rights law, including the principles of legality, necessity, proportionality and non-discrimination, and underlined by the importance of free, independent, plural and diverse digital ecosystem,
- C3.** to *require* the private sector, including digital service providers, business enterprises, social media companies, and all relevant stakeholders, that they have the responsibility to counter, as appropriate, and in accordance with international human rights law, cybersecurity threats, and that they communicate how they address their human rights impacts with the aim to strengthen accountability and transparency, and to regularly review their business models to ensure that their business operations are in line with Safety by Design principles so that human rights are promoted, respected, protected and fulfilled through the entirety of digital technologies’ life cycle, including through their conception, design, development, deployment, use, evaluation and regulation,
- C4.** to *recognise*, promote, respect and fulfil the rights of all children, including children with disabilities and children in vulnerable situations, that they have access to quality education, that their views are respected and included in decision-making processes, in accordance with their evolving capacities or age and maturity, in all matters affecting them, and that sole responsibility to respect the rights of the child is handled by parents, who should pay particular attention to safeguarding the safety, privacy and protection of their child or children.
- C5.** to *acknowledge* the digital divide, as a source of inequitable access to information and communication, and that children and young people, and must have equal access to digital technologies and digital literacy skills, as well as their parents or legal guardians, teachers and educators, and recognising the importance of strengthening their evolving capacities through digital competencies, by empowering children and



# Rules of Procedure

## Overview

This section sets out a brief overview of the rules of procedure applicable to the D2R Youth Committee on Online Safety. Please refer to the **Rules of Procedure** and **Workplan** for more detailed information.

**Presiding Officer:** The Chair will manage the Special Committee and the rules on procedure. If the Chair makes any ruling, the Chair's ruling shall be final and authoritative. Subject to the Chair's discretion, no appeal of the Chair's ruling is permitted.

**Roll Call:** The Secretariat will conduct a roll call at the start of the session. Quorum is one half of the voting members. Once roll call is held, note passing is permitted and the Chair opens the primary speakers list to set the agenda.

**Starting a session:** At the start of the session, the Chair will announce the resolution to be discussed, and invite a member state in favour to propose the resolution, and a different member state also in favour to second the resolution.

**Proposer and Seconder:** The Chair will then invite the proposer to speak, followed by the seconder.

**Opening of Speakers' List:** When the seconder begins their speech, the Speaker's List is 'opened'. Every member state must submit a note to the Chair with the member state's name and whether they are "for" or "against" the resolution to join the Speaker's List.

**Opposer:** After the speech of the seconder, the Chair will call one member state opposed to the resolution to speak.

**Negotiation Chamber:** The Chair shall open the Negotiation Chamber before calling on the seconder of the resolution. While the Negotiation Chamber is open, delegates may move to the Negotiation Chamber to meet with other member states to negotiate or discuss, but **one delegate of each member state must remain in the main debate chamber at all times**. The Negotiation Chamber will be closed during caucus time and when an amendment is being read, explained, or voted on.

**First Caucus:** At the end of the first opposing member state's speech, the Chair will call for a period of caucus or recess.

**Speakers' List:** Following the caucus, the Chair will call on member states in the order of speakers on the Speakers' List, generally alternating between those for and against the resolution. Only one delegate from a member state may speak in a given speech, but delegates may alternate who speaks between speeches, or between speeches and points of information.

**Points of information:** At the end of every speech (other than the Right of Reply), a delegate may raise a point of information to the speaker, subject to the Chair's approval.

**Yielding:** Member states other than the proposer and seconder of a resolution must yield the floor after their speech or a response to a point of information, either to the Chair or another member state on the Speaker's List who has not yet spoken..

**Amendments:** At any time during the session, and after the first mandated caucus, a member state may propose an amendment to the operative clauses of the resolution. Amendments are submitted as a note to the Chair and must be clearly from a single proposing member state. The member state may circulate their amendment to any other member state for endorsement of that amendment's entertainment (i.e. for the Committee to discuss the amendment, not necessarily its adoption). If a member state endorses an amendment, they must indicate this on the copy of the amendment submitted to the Chair, noting themselves as 'co-sponsors' of the amendment.

**Additional caucuses:** The Chair may grant caucus time on a point of privilege, after written request.

**Points of order:** At any time during the debate, a delegate may raise a point of order on grounds of relevance, abuse, or procedure.

**Closure of debate:** The Chair will close the debate and may consider any written requests to close debate, any Points of Privilege or Order requesting closure of the debate, or a procedural vote of the Committee. When debate is closed, the Committee moves straight to a vote on the amendment.

**Voting:** Voting on resolutions is done by roll call. Voting on other matters (including procedural matters) is done by raising or lowering of placards. Member states are permitted to abstain.

## Judging Criteria

Teams will be judged based on five objective criteria:

- 1. Speaking
- 2. Negotiation
- 3. Teamwork

- 4. Research
- 5. Diplomacy

## Award Categories

- Best Overall Delegate
- Distinguished Delegate
- Honourable Mention: Delegate
- Outstanding Individual Presentation
- Distinguished Individual Presentation
- Honourable Mention: Individual Presentation

- Outstanding Position Paper Award
- Distinguished Team Position Paper Award
- Honourable Mention: Team Position Paper Award
- Best Team Professionalism and Diplomatic Values
- Distinguished Team Professionalism and Diplomatic Values
- Honourable Mention: Team Professionalism and Diplomatic Values

## Workshops

To help prepare the delegates and team leaders for the D2R conference, delegates and team leaders are invited to participate in two mandatory virtual workshops hosted by AASYP and the eSafety, covering topics such as the United Nations, human rights, online safety, and the rules of procedure for the two-day Model UN style Youth Committee. We hope you found the workshops helpful.

### Workshop 1

<b>Date</b>	<b>22 March 2024</b>
<b>Venue</b>	<b>Virtual</b>
<b>Facilitators</b>	<b>AASYP &amp; eSafety</b>
<b>Content</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• ASEAN-Australia Reflections</li><li>• Safety by Design and Online Safety</li></ul>

### Workshop 2

<b>Date</b>	<b>12 April 2024</b>
<b>Venue</b>	<b>Virtual</b>
<b>Facilitators</b>	<b>AASYP, eSafety, Chair</b>
<b>Content</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• United Nations &amp; Model UN</li><li>• Rules of Procedure &amp; D2R Program</li></ul>

## Outcomes

The objective of the D2R program is to promote cross-border dialogue between aspiring leaders across ASEAN and Australia on online safety through the lens of human rights. The program equips and hone participants with critical skill sets such as diplomacy and negotiation, public speaking, research, problem solving, team collaboration, and leadership. Participants get the opportunity to negotiate and exchange ideas in a highly interactive environment, with discussions focused on key policy considerations in formulating a rights-based framework for online safety.

At the end of the program, participants are expected to walk away with a deeper knowledge and understanding of the structure of the UN, international and human rights law, and the opportunities and challenges in regulating online safety. You also get to stay connected with and be part of AASYP's expanding network of over 300 alumni across ASEAN and Australia.

We hope that you find this experience enjoyable and rewarding as much as we did in running this program. It has been our pleasure to have you be part of this program. We hope you will continue to share your knowledge and experience with each other and contribute to the future of ASEAN-Australia relations.

# Agenda



# Day 1

Date: 2 May 2024

Time: 8.45am to 7.30pm (Bangkok time)

Venues: ASEAN University Network at Chulalongkorn

University and Australian Embassy

Facilitators: AASYP, eSafety, and Chair

**8.45am - 9.30am**

**Morning welcome and address by guest speaker**

Adelaide Pope, AASYP

Ella Serry, eSafety

Main Conference Room

**9.30am - 11:20am**

**Secretariat opening and roll call**

Paul Sigar, AASYP

Main Conference Room

**11.20am - 11.35am**

**15-minute morning tea break**

Foyer

**11.35am - 1.10pm**

**Delegates' presentation on Question Two**

Joel Lisk, Flinders University

(Chair of the D2R Committee)

Delegates for Australia, Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Thailand, and Vietnam

Main Conference Room

**1.10pm - 2.00pm**

**50-minute lunch break**

Foyer

**2.00pm - 3:45pm**

**Delegates' presentation on Question Three**

Joel Lisk, Flinders University

(Chair of the D2R Committee)

Delegates for Australia, Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Thailand, and Vietnam

Main Conference Room

**Wrap up**

Joel Lisk, Flinders University

(Chair of the D2R Committee)

**3.45pm - 5.30pm**

**Pack up & departure to the Australian Embassy**

**5.30pm - 7:30pm**

**Panel Discussion & Networking**

Australian Embassy

# Day 2

Date: **3 May 2024**

Time: **9.15am to 5.30pm (Bangkok time)**

Venue: **ASEAN University Network at Chulalongkorn University**

Facilitators: **AASYP, eSafety, and Chair**

## **Secretariat opening and roll call**

Paul Sigar, AASYP

**9.30am - 11:10am**

## **Open floor debate on Draft Resolution**

Joel Lisk, Flinders University

(Chair of the D2R Committee)

Delegates for Australia, Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Thailand, and Vietnam

**Main Conference Room & Adjacent Room**

**11.10am - 11.30am**

## **20-minute morning tea break**

**Foyer**

**11.30am - 1.15pm**

## **Open floor debate on Draft Resolution**

Joel Lisk, Flinders University

(Chair of the D2R Committee)

Delegates for Australia, Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Thailand, and Vietnam

**Main Conference Room & Adjacent Room**

**1.15pm - 2.15pm**

## **60-minute lunch break**

**Foyer**

**2.15pm - 4:00pm**

## **Open floor debate on Draft Resolution**

Joel Lisk, Flinders University

(Chair of the D2R Committee)

Delegates for Australia, Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Thailand, and Vietnam

**Main Conference Room & Adjacent Room**

**4.00pm - 5.00 pm**

## **Final Resolution & Awards**

**Main Conference Room**

**5.00pm - 5:30pm**

## **Afternoon tea & goodbyes**

**Foyer**

# Thai Cultural Showcase

AASYP is pleased to have the team from the Faculty of Performing Arts who will present their cultural performance at the opening of the D2R conference.

## Traditional Thai Dance Session

Ms. Trirat (Meen) Wisutthiphan is a Professor in the Faculty of Performing Arts at the Institute of Graduate Studies, Ministry of Culture and leads a traditional Thai dancing group.

### Traditional Devaraj Worship Dance (รำชุดสักการะเทวราช)



The '**Rum-chut-sakkara-terawaat**', or **The Devaraj Worship Dance** is a traditional Thai dance that expresses respect and admiration for the Thai monarchy. The word 'Devaraj' translates to 'God-King'. The dance draws inspiration from praising the monarch, who upon taking the throne is considered to be a reincarnation of the god Indra, King of all heavenly beings. As such, the devaraj underscores the spiritual dimension of kingship by intertwining the earthly leader with the divine. This dance reflects the rich cultural tapestry of Thailand and its historical ties to ancient Southeast Asian civilisations. This dance has been showcased around the world and is often performed in special events as it illustrates several facets of Thai arts and culture.

The performance depicts courtiers, exquisitely dressed in full imperial dress from the early Ayutthaya period, skillfully conveying emotions and narratives through precise movements. The positioning of the fingers, wrists, and body create a form of artistic sign language, and the dancers' upright posture is symbolic of dignity and regal bearing. The kneeling postures and deep bows symbolise reverence, loyalty and humility. The musical composition combines traditional Thai and Western orchestras, while retaining the Thai musical tradition. The Devaraj Worship Dance encapsulates the majesty, spirituality and timeless elegance of Thailand's monarchy, arts and culture through a harmonious blend of tradition and modernity.



## Thai Desserts Session

Ms. Karaked Angsupanich is Lecturer at the Royal College for Traditional Thai Crafts Salaya, with a Bachelor of Arts in Artistry of Thai Floral Garland and Thai desserts. She is also a consultant for cooking programs and is the Founder of the Maria Learning Centre.

The Thai word for dessert or snack is '**Kanom**' and '**Kanom Mongkon**' refers to a category of traditional sweets that are shared to bestow blessings and good wishes. Ms. Karaked showcases some of the 'Nine Auspicious Thai Desserts' in her presentation that are typically enjoyed during customary events. The number 9 is significant in Thai numerology as it represents progress and moving forward. Thai desserts are renowned for their exquisite appearance and meticulous preparation, with each dessert conveying blessings related to different aspects of life. Delegates will get to learn about and enjoy an array of desserts which bestow prosperity, abundance, happiness, good fortune and success.

**Among these are:**

### **Thong Ake**

Considered the Queen of Thai desserts, this dessert is synonymous with prosperity and success in one's career

### **Sanae-Chan**

Typically served during wedding ceremonies, it is believed that this dessert brings happiness and gratitude to the new couple.

### **Kanom Dara-Thong**

With a direct translation to 'golden stars', this dessert signifies beauty, high status, career stability and promotion.

### **Kanom Luk Chup**

These unique sweets are shaped like miniature fruits and vegetables, and were originally a delicacy reserved only for Thai royalty. Its historical association with the royal court signifies respect, honour, good fortune and joy, while the intricate craftsmanship that goes into the dessert reflects Thai culture's emphasis on precision and aesthetics.

### **Kanom Chan**

Originating from the Sukhothai Period, this fragrant dessert holds auspicious significance, being historically made with 9 layers symbolising continual success.



# Meet the Delegates



# Australia

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**Thomas Akhurst (Tom)**

**Team Leader**

*Sciences Po*



**Nicholas Enraght-Moony (Nicky)**

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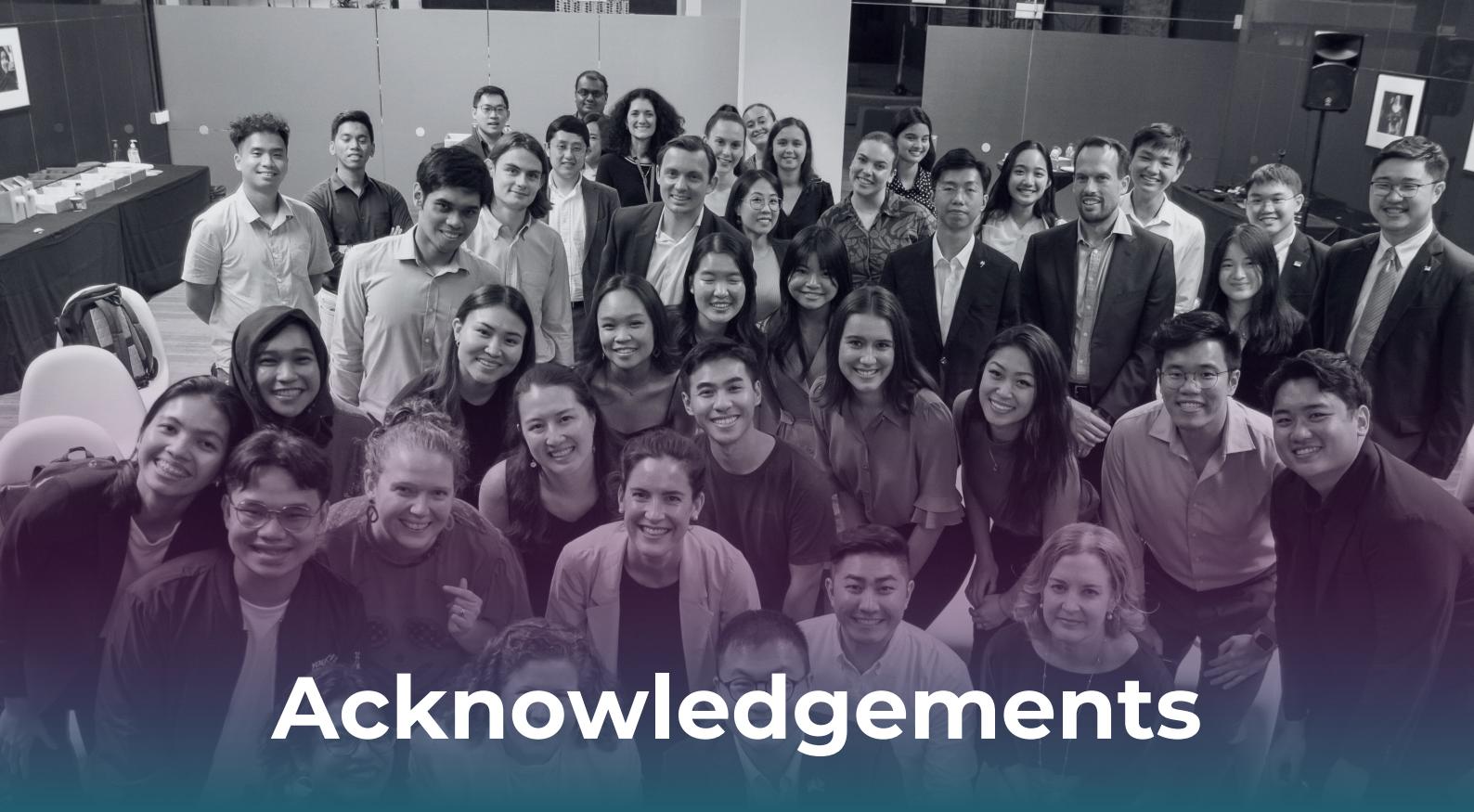
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