

ASEAN YOUNG GREEN COMMUNICATORS (AYGC)

Capacity Building Program on Scientific Literacy, Storytelling, and Responsible AI Use
Theme: Environment and Plastic Pollution in Southeast Asia

Jakarta, 7-8 May 2026

1. Background

Plastic pollution remains one of the most urgent environmental challenges in Southeast Asia. Rapid urbanisation, high plastic consumption, and uneven waste management systems have resulted in significant ecological and public health impacts across the region. While scientific research and policy discussions on plastic pollution continue to grow, public understanding and youth-led communication on this issue remain fragmented and uneven.

Young people across ASEAN countries have strong potential to shape public narratives, influence behaviour change, and amplify evidence-based solutions. However, many emerging youth communicators face gaps in scientific literacy, storytelling skills, and practical experience in translating complex environmental issues into accessible, accurate, and engaging public content.

At the same time, the increasing use of artificial intelligence in content production presents both opportunities and risks. AI tools can support ideation, efficiency, and multiplatform adaptation, but without clear guidance, they may also lead to misinformation, loss of originality, or weakened editorial accountability.

The ASEAN Young Green Communicators (AYGC) program is designed to respond to these challenges by equipping young people in Southeast Asia with a strong foundation in environmental issues, science communication skills, collaborative production practices, and responsible AI use. Through a combination of issue deepening led by Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia (ERIA) and applied communication training facilitated by The Conversation Indonesia (TCID), AYGC aims to nurture a new generation of credible, ethical, and impactful green communicators.

2. Program Objectives

The AYGC program aims to:

- Strengthen youth understanding of plastic pollution issues in Southeast Asia using a science- and evidence-based approach.
- Build practical skills in science communication through article writing and multiplatform content creation.
- Foster cross-disciplinary collaboration between writers and content creators.

- Promote ethical and responsible use of AI in environmental communication.
- Produce high-quality, publish-ready knowledge products relevant to regional audiences.

3. Participant's requirements:

Participants must meet the following requirements:

- Aged 20–25 at the time the application period closes
- A citizen of an ASEAN country
- Working proficiency in English
- Available to attend the full in-person workshop in Jakarta

4. Program Benefits

Participants will receive the following benefits:

- Two full days of hands-on science communication training focused on the environment, plastic pollution, and sustainability issues
- Transport and accommodation are covered during the program in Jakarta
- Allowance provided to support participants during the workshop
- Regional networking opportunities with young changemakers from across Southeast Asia
- Real collaborative project experience to apply the skills learned during the training
- Exclusive program merchandise for selected participants
- E-certificate upon completion of the workshop program

5. Timeline

10 March - 5 April 2026	Call for Applications
5 - 15 April 2026	Selection Process
16 April 2026	Announcement
7-8 May 2026	Training in Jakarta
10 - 29 May 2026	Collaboration Project

6. Registration

Register here bit.ly/AYGC-2026 no later than April 5, 2026, at 6:00 PM (GMT +7)

For more information, contact us at id-stakeholder@theconversation.com (Lia) or marineplastic@eria.org (Annisa)

Frequently Asked Question (FAQ) **ASEAN Young Green Communicators**

1. What is the ASEAN Young Green Communicators (AYGC) program?

AYGC is a capacity-building workshop for young people across ASEAN to learn science communication, storytelling, and responsible AI use while exploring environmental issues like plastic pollution.

2. Do you have special themes for the workshop?

Yes. The workshop focuses on environmental issues, plastic pollution, and sustainability. We are looking for participants who are interested in exploring these topics, collaborating with others, and amplifying awareness around these issues through their work

3. I'm interested in the workshop, but I'm not sure about the theme. Can I apply with a different topic?

Unfortunately, no. The workshop is specifically designed to focus on environmental issues, plastic pollution, and sustainability. All training materials, discussions, and collaborative projects will center on these themes. To ensure meaningful collaboration and shared learning among participants, applicants are expected to submit work that aligns with these focus areas.

4. When and where will the workshop take place?

The workshop will be held fully offline on 7–8 May 2026 in Jakarta, Indonesia. It will run for two full days and will be followed by a collaborative project. Participants are expected to arrive in Jakarta one day before the workshop and depart one day after it concludes.

5. Who can join the program?

Applicants should be 20–25 years old, be an ASEAN citizen, and have working proficiency in English. You must also be available to attend the full offline workshop in Jakarta.

6. Is the program free of charge?

Yes! The program is fully funded for participants.

7. Do I need to be able to speak English to participate in this program?

Yes. The workshop and all program activities will be conducted in English, so participants are expected to have a basic ability to communicate in English.

8. What capacity-building opportunities are available?

There are two selections you can choose:

- a. **Article Writing** – focusing on science-based articles, strong storytelling angles, and clear evidence-based writing.
- b. **Content Creation** – focusing on visual storytelling, scripting, platform-based content, and communicating science through digital media.

9. Do I need to choose only one workshop, or can I apply to both?

You may apply to both workshops if you are interested and meet the eligibility criteria for each. However, if selected, you will only be able to participate in one workshop.

10. Ok, I plan to submit an article. What kind of article should I write?

You may write an article on environmental issues, plastic pollution, or broader sustainability topics. The article should be written in English and should not exceed 800 words. This should be a new piece of writing and does not need to be final; a draft version is acceptable.

11. If I choose the content creation workshop, what kind of content should I produce?

If you choose the content creation session, you should create a piece of content such as a short video or an infographic related to environmental issues, plastic pollution, or sustainability. Upload the content to your personal social media account and make sure the post is public so the selection committee can review it during the evaluation process. The content should be presented in English.

12. How competitive is the selection process?

The program is quite competitive. We will select 12–18 young participants from across Southeast Asia. Applications will be reviewed carefully, and only those who best meet the eligibility criteria and program requirements will be selected.

13. If I am selected, this will be my first time traveling abroad and I'm not sure how to prepare. What should I do before the workshop?

No need to worry. Our team will arrange your transportation and accommodation. If you are selected, we will also hold an online technical briefing with all participants to provide detailed information about the program and explain what you need to prepare before the workshop.



14. I saw there will be a collaboration project after the workshop. What does that mean?

During the workshop, participants will already practice working together through hands-on sessions that combine writing, storytelling, and content creation. The collaboration project is a follow-up to this learning process. After the workshop ends, participants will continue working together to produce a joint piece of content based on the ideas and exercises developed during the training.

The goal is to amplify conversations around environmental issues, plastic pollution, and sustainability so they can reach wider audiences across countries. It also helps participants strengthen teamwork and real-world collaboration. In short, the program is designed not to stop at training, but to encourage participants to keep creating and advocating together.