

SSEAYP 2007

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Reported by: Zauwiyah Majid

Translated by: Ms Julina Khusaini; Ms Nur Adilah

“Extraordinary” was how Wahyunengsih a youth from Indonesia felt about a forum organised recently by youths from the Southeast Asian Youth Programme, SSEAYP 2007.

This week’s Report Card invites you to share the experience of these SSEAYP 2007 youths, during their stopover in Singapore.

The Southeast Asian Youth Programme SSEAYP 2007 is indeed a unique programme. This is because youths who participate in this programme would have the opportunity to visit Southeast Asian countries and Japan on a sailboat. While on the sailboat Nippon Maru, these youths would have the opportunity to interact and exchange views with one another.

When asked about how she felt when given this opportunity to take part in this programme, Syahzereen Zakaria, a youth aged 25 from Selangor, Malaysia, said that she had to stop working because she did not want to miss the opportunity to participate in this sailing programme for youth.

Similarly, another 22-yr old youth from Brunei, Muhammad Ikhwan Haji Masri, was also eager to attend the programme.

This was his first time visiting Singapore. Previously, he was only able to see Singapore through the viewing area of the Changi Airport. The 22-year-old youth was very happy to be given this opportunity to take a closer look at the city of Singapore.

One of the activities was the forum organised by OnePeople.sg. Themed “Crosscultural Understanding”, the youths were invited to the forum to discuss the concept of multiculturalism that is being practiced in Singapore..

For the SSEAYP youth, this forum proved useful in giving a clearer picture on the multiracial lifestyle in Singapore.

Wahyunengsih was very satisfied with the discussions held with 4 members of the panel. The explanations given proved to be very effective in giving a holistic picture of life in Singapore. He certainly had learnt a lot from the forum.

Apart from participating in the forum, SSEAYP youths also participated in the Homestay programme. In the Homestay Programme, youths were given the opportunity to stay with Singapore’s youths who were also participating in the SSEAYP.

For Mohamad Ikhwan Haji Masri, this was the programme he was eagerly waiting for. He said that this would be the first first time he would be able to experience living in a flat.

Wahyunengsih was also very excited to participate in Homestay programme because he wanted to have hands-on experience in the Singapore way of life.

Overall, the Nippon Maru stopover in Singapore was an exciting adventure for the SSEAYP youths. Apart from learning more about the multi-racial concept in Singapore, the youths also had the opportunity to really experience the Singaporean lifestyle through the Homestay programme.

That's all for Report Card for this week, partner Fadhillah Kamarul and I, Zauwiyah Majid, signing off.