



AFS Malaysia

Annual Report

2016

Contents

4 Mission, Values & Vision

5 Foreword

Program Overview

6 Sending

8 Hosting

**10 Training, Learning & Education
Overview**

**12 Chapter & Volunteer
Development Overview**

16 Leadership

18 Acknowledgement

At a glance

See Page

06

Programs Overview: Sending

See Page

08

Programs Overview: Hosting

See Page

10

Training, Learning & Education Overview

See Page

12

Chapter & Volunteer Development Overview

See Page

16

Leadership

See Page

18

Acknowledgement



AFS Malaysia's Mission Statement

To engage Malaysians to embrace our differences and celebrate our commonalities through committed volunteerism for a united Malaysia

AFS Malaysia's Vision Statement

- To be a leader in Intercultural Learning
- To create future leaders through intercultural learning and understanding

Foreword

"Progress is impossible without change, and those who cannot change their minds cannot change anything."
George Bernard Shaw

Change is sometimes inevitable. We are always evolving. You've seen how AFS Malaysia has evolved over almost six decades. From an exchange program with a single country, we now have exchange programs in various continents. From a school-based program, we have ventured into 18+ programs that place participants in community service organizations.

The past year has seen a lot of changes; new ideas, greater commitment and a higher level of energy and excitement that can be felt in AFS Malaysia as we strive to become more professional and task driven. Although this new culture calls for changes in behaviors and responses, perhaps we have been too optimistic in trying to achieve a performance-oriented culture across all stakeholders in a short time.

The year has also seen a lot of challenges. The current economic situation has really impacted our programs and we are still experiencing a drastic shortfall in our sending numbers. The changes in MoE and Immigration processes meant that we have added hurdles in placing our hosted participants. The high staff turnover meant that volunteers had to step up to fill the gap.

As we continue to strive to improve our professionalism at all levels, the Board, Staff and Volunteer, please be assured that the essence of AFS, which is Inspiring, Supportive, Trustworthy and Connecting and translated into our core values of TARIII, will always remain as the foundation of AFS.

Thank You volunteers for all your excellent work. Looking forward to growing from strength to strength with you in the years ahead.

"You make a living by what you get. You make a life by what you give."
~Winston Churchill~



Khalilah Talha
AFS Malaysia
Chairperson



Atty Sulaiman
AFS Malaysia
National Director

Program Overview:

Sending

INTENSIVE & VERY SHORT PROGRAM

In the year 2016, Yayasan AFS Antarabudaya Malaysia sent 41 students in to seven countries - China, Denmark, Finland, Italy, Japan, Germany and Spain. For the corresponding year, MEXT scholarships from the Japanese Government were awarded to five students from Selangor, Kuala Lumpur, Melaka and Kelantan respectively. We are currently looking to expand our programs to more countries for Intensive and Very Short Program in the near future.

SEMESTER, YEAR & COMMUNITY SERVICE PROGRAM

In 2016, we have sent a total of 102 participants. The total number of participants includes the Semester Program, Year Program for both Southern and Northern Hemisphere (SH and NH cycles). For the SH cycle, 36 Year Program and 66 Semester Program participants have successfully completed the program. A total number of 53 students received either full or partial scholarship this year to go for the program. The scholarship are Yayasan AFS Antarabudaya Malaysia, Kamenori, AAI, AFS Global Changemaker, KL-YES and British Petroleum Scholarship. AFS Malaysia sent one participant for the Community Service Program (18+) this year to Denmark for a Semester. We hope to expand the list of countries for this program in future.



Program	Duration	Host Country	No. of Participants
Very Short (VSP)	1 month	Denmark	9
		Germany	3
Intensive (IP)	6-8 weeks	China	1
		Italy (School-based)	9
		Italy (art program)	4
		Japan (School-based)	2
		Japan (language course)	5
		Japan (MEXT Scholarship)	5
		Finland (homestay)	1
		Spain	1

KENNEDY-LUGAR YOUTH EXCHANGE & STUDY PROGRAM

A total of 45 students were selected as finalists for the Kennedy-Lugar Youth Exchange & Study Semester Program to the United States for the year 2016. The program, which is funded by the U.S. Department of State, provides scholarships for secondary school students from countries with significant Muslim population to spend up to a year in the United States. Participants serve as “youth ambassadors” of Malaysia, promoting mutual understanding by forming lasting relationships with their host families and communities. The YES Alumni played a big role in preparing the students at the Pre-Departure Orientation. The students were also invited to a Luncheon hosted by the US Embassy during their Pre-Departure Orientation. This gave them the opportunity to meet and mingle with fellow American representatives.

Program	Duration	Host Country	No. of Participants
Semester (SM)	5-6 months	Austria	2
		Brazil	1
		China (NH)	1
		France	5
		Hungary	3
		Italy	7
		USA	2
	BP Program	USA	45
	YES Program	USA	

Program	Duration	Host Country	No. of Participants
Year (YP)	10-11 months	Argentina	4
	SH cycle	Chile	2
		Brazil	2
		Denmark	2
		Japan	11
		Germany	7
		New Zealand	2
		Switzerland	6
	NH cycle	Hungary	1
		Belgium Flanders	1
Community Service Program	Semester	Denmark	1



Program Overview:

Hosting

The hosting number for 2016 in total is 63 participants with 45 school-based students and 18 participants for the 18+ community service program for both SH and NH cycles. As for the school-based program, Japan and Italy were the largest sending partners. Germany remains the major sending partner for 18+ community service program.

In 2016, we hosted a participant from Thailand again after a hiatus of three years. The last time we hosted a participant from our neighbouring country was in 2013. It was a successful exchange journey for the participant.

The hosting highlights were our Festive Exchange programs where we placed students with different host families of different cultural and religious backgrounds for them to experience the variety of celebrations in Malaysia throughout the year. This way, students get to experience richness of our multiculturalism, regardless the cultural heritage of the families they're placed with. The Festival Exchange has always been our most favorite experience for the hosted students.

Students were also given the experience to explore living in another host communities for two weeks during their exchange period, on a program we call short



term exchange (STE). During exchange, the participants had the opportunity to learn about the very unique and authentic cultural experience in places such as Sarawak, Terengganu, Kelantan, Pahang and Kedah. The STE is one of the most anticipated cultural enrichment activity by hosted students in Malaysia. The STE is conducted twice a year, in March (NH Batch) and in September (SH Batch).

Below is the breakdown of the Hosting Program in Malaysia for the SH16 and NH16 Batch.

Program and Duration	Sending Country	No. of Participants
Intensive Program (4 – 8 Weeks)	France (sc)	2
Semester Program (5 – 6 months)	Germany (sc)	2
	Switzerland (18+)	1
Year Program (8 – 11 months) SC – School-Based Program 18+ – 18+ Community Service Program	Argentina (sc)	1
	Belgium Flanders (sc)	1
	France (sc)	1
	Germany (sc)	5
	Germany (18+)	17
	Hungary (sc)	1
	Italy (sc)	14
	Japan (sc)	7
	Spain (sc)	2
	Sweden (sc)	1
	Thailand (sc)	1
	USA (sc)	7



Training, Learning & Education Overview:

In view of our strategic plans to become a hub for Intercultural Learning (ICL) within this decade, AFS Malaysia embarked on various efforts to create awareness amongst our stakeholders. The focus for the year 2016 was to expand the educational goals for intercultural learning through our various workshops and initiatives. The highlights are:

- * Conducted four ICL Level W Workshops and trained up to 130 participants
- * Participated in the Regional ICL Level 1 Workshop in Manila, Philippines



* Participated in the AFS Education Events & Awards 2016

* AFS Malaysia participated in an Educational Assessment Project to tabulate an e-learning journey

based on the AFS Educational Goals (Phase 2)

* AFS Malaysia is proud to have introduced the initial AFS Student Learning Journey with its key volunteers and staff

* Successfully conducted and trained

orientation facilitators to meet the demand for facilitators at our orientation programmes throughout the year

We hope that with these initiatives, AFS Malaysia will be able to achieve the target of becoming a hub for Intercultural Learning (ICL) in the near future.



Chapter & Volunteer Development Overview:

In 2016, Chapter & Volunteer Development scored notable success in the department growth. The 4Ps of processes, procedures, policies and practices were observed which involved proper documentation in the operations.

Some of the achievements were:

- i) Relaunching of Bangi Chapter
- ii) Introduction of the ADP (AFS Documentation Project)

- iii) 360° evaluation by AFS Chapters
- iv) Upgrade of the Chapter Charter
- v) Soft launch of the ADP with Klang Valley Chapters

Training & Overseas Opportunities

- AFS Academy in Budapest – Attended by 2 Board members in February 2016
- YES Alumni Workshop in Morocco – March 2016
- YES Alumni Training of Trainers in Washington DC – March 2016
- YES Alumni Workshop in South Africa – May 2016
- Orientation for Malaysia-bound Italian students in Rome – a returnee from Italy was at the pre-departure orientation preparations in June 2016
- Global Village Study Program in Pennsylvania – July 2016
- Summer Academy in Germany – July 2016
- EFIL Volunteer Summer Summit in Venice – July 2016
- YES Alumni Advocacy Workshop in Manila – August 2016
- Volunteer Exchange in Jakarta – November 2016



Annual Events

- Board, Chapter & Staff Retreat – This retreat took place in April in Seremban, Negeri Sembilan. Everyone had an opportunity to take part in outdoor teambuilding activities. It was at this event that the ADP was introduced.
- Chapter Presidents Meeting – Both meetings were held in conjunction with the 2 hosting cycles' End of Stay Farewell Dinner.
- Volunteer Congress 2016 – The theme “Love Our Differences” was aimed to understand and overcome differences among one another. Dinner theme was “The Oscars – let the Red Carpets roll” where award winners received the glam golden statuette replica.
- Best Chapter Awards – It was a fierce and tight competition among the chapters. All chapters were in it to win the coveted prize. Chapter KPI was religiously observed. Eventually, Negeri Sembilan Chapter was declared the champion followed closely by Penang Chapter and second runner-up was Kedah Chapter.



Chapter & Alumni Updates

- Kedah Chapter formally formed a chapter committee.
- Penang Chapter had a change of leadership.
- New President and Vice President for Damansara Chapter.
- 2nd Vice President appointed for Terengganu Chapter.
- “Into the Woods” and “Jom Makan With Us” were the 2 major projects by the AFS Malaysia Returnees.
- YES Alumni held a variety of outdoor activities which included feeding the homeless, community-based events, teaching the less privileged, train back programs, etc.



The Volunteer Congress 2016 was added with a little “foreign” gaiety as AFS Malaysia welcomed a group of 10 volunteers from AFS Hong Kong, AFS Indonesia and AFS India. They were first hosted in chapters and their experience concluded with their participation in the congress. The congress had an interesting twist whereby all VC participants got to participate in a Cultural Walkabout Hunt centered in KL City. Prizes were given out to the top 5 teams who returned with the highest points. The popularity of the hunt sparked excitement because thereafter chapters held their own city cultural walkabout which not only attracted the attention of AFS stakeholders but also from the public. Worth a mention is Negeri Sembilan Chapter since reinvention a short few years ago, came up tops for the annual “Best Chapter” competition. Indeed it was a sweet victory for a chapter so young under a revamped committee leadership. We hope their phenomenal success will spur motivation among all chapters to step up the challenge and vie for the future annual top award.

In view of a challenging year in general economy, we anticipate surmounting hurdles ahead but are confident with the support and commitment from dedicated & passionate volunteers and staff, AFS Malaysia will persevere and strive to achieve another milestone.



Leadership

AFS Malaysia Board of Directors 2016

Khalilah Dato' Mohd Talha

Chairperson

Dato' Christopher Tan Chie Kiong

Government Relations

Dr. Jason Lee Wen Yau

Training & Education

Elena Shamsuddin

Corporate Scholarship Funding
and Administration

Zamrah Ismail

Program Development

Aminnudin Rezal Jaafar

Brand Visibility & Corporate
Funding

Thiruchelvam A/L Subramaniam

Chapter & Volunteer Development

AFS Malaysia National Office

Atty Sulaiman
National Director

Annie Yap
Assistant National Director/ Chapter &
Volunteer Development Manager

Azreen Afzan Md Nasir
Program Manager

Jasmin Melan
Program Development Manager

Kautsar Ismail
HR & Finance Manager

Kuhan Kandiah Chelvanathan
Training, Learning &
Education Manager

Liyana Johan
Chapter & Development Executive

Mohd Fareez Jaafar Sidik
Human Resource Admin

Nadia Samsuddin
Programs Executive – Kennedy Lugar Youth
Exchange Study Program

Siti Sophie Ismail
Programs Executive (Sending
Programs)

Farah Zulkifli
Programs Executive (Hosting Programs)

Zainal Izuddin Saharudin
Program Executive
Hosting – School Based

Nurhasliza Sahadi
Digital Marketing & Creative Design
Executive

AFS Malaysia Chapter

Ampang Chapter
Nuriah Manap

Bangi Chapter
Aziyah Yusuf

Damansara Chapter
Susie Naddan

Johor Chapter
Irene Chooi Ling Leong

Klang Chapter
Colin Poobalan

Kedah Chapter
Rohaya Md Yusoff

Kelantan Chapter
Anisah Abdul Halim

Negeri Sembilan Chapter
Khoo Eng Foo

Perlis Chapter
Dr. Hari Ram

Pahang Chapter
Vincent Jiam Tee Hoong

Penang Chapter
Datin Teo Hwee Ai

Perak Chapter
Santheran Appasamy

Sarawak Chapter
Bahtiar Afandi

Terengganu Chapter
Long Tin Piau, PJK

Acknowledgement

Embassies

Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany
Embassy of France
Embassy of Italy
Embassy of Belgium
Embassy of the United States
Embassy of Spain
Embassy Of Switzerland
Embassy of the Republic of Hungary
Embassy of Costa Rica
Embassy of the Republic of the Philippines

Ministries/ Government Agencies

Ministry of Education Malaysia(MOE)
*School Management Division
*Special School Education Division
*Curriculum Development Centre
*Cluster/Fully Residential School Management Division
*Co-curricular Unit.

State Education Department (JPN)

*School Division
*Curriculum Unit
*Relations and Registration Unit
*Academic Unit

Ministry of Tourism Malaysia
Ministry of Foreign Affairs Malaysia (MOFA)
Ministry of Information , Communication and Culture Malaysia
Immigration Department of Malaysia
Inland Revenue Board of Malaysia (LHDN)

Media

The Star
Harian Metro
New Straits Time
Nanyang Siang Pau
Tamil Malar
Astro Awani
Sinar Harian

Non-profit Organizations

Children's Protection Society, Penang
Children's Welfare Home
German-Malaysian Institute
Institut Masalah Pembelajaran & Autisme Malaysia (IMPIAN)
Penang Cheshire Home
Perak Society for the Promotion of Mental Health
Persatuan Kemajuan Wanita Masyarakat India
Pertubuhan Kebajikan Anak Yatim Perlis
Pusat Harian Sinar Harapan
Rumah Mak Teh
St. John Ambulans Malaysia
Tadika Penang Buddhist Association
The Dementia Society (TDS) Perak

A photograph of two young women with long hair, focused on painting a colorful mural on a wall. They are using brushes and are positioned close together, looking down at their work. The woman on the left is wearing a blue patterned top, and the woman on the right is wearing a black top. The background shows a wooden railing and a window with greenery outside. A semi-transparent yellow and orange banner is overlaid at the bottom of the image.

**Creating global
citizens, empowering
changemakers**



Antarabudaya
Malaysia

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Connecting Lives, Sharing Cultures