

# APEC Voices of the Future

## Bangkok, Thailand

13 - 20 November 2022



### A Special Report on the APEC Voices of the Future 2022 held in Bangkok, Thailand

## APEC Leaders' Week 2022

Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) was formed in 1989 as a regional platform where member economies can discuss free trade and economic cooperation along the Pacific Rim. Its primary purpose is to facilitate economic growth and prosperity in the Asia Pacific region, with the vision of creating a seamless regional economy.

Thailand was honoured to host the APEC Leaders' Week on 18 and 19 November 2022 in Bangkok. The event was attended by heads and representatives of the 21 APEC member economies: Australia, Brunei Darussalam, Canada, Chile, People's Republic of China, Hong Kong China, Indonesia, Japan, Republic of Korea, Malaysia, Mexico, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Peru, Philippines, Russia, Singapore, Chinese Taipei, United States of America, Vietnam and Thailand, the host.



H.E. Prayut Chan-o-cha, Prime Minister of Thailand at the opening of the APEC CEO Summit 2022, Bangkok, Thailand.

## APEC Voices of the Future 2022

Held in conjunction with the APEC Leaders' Week 2022, APEC Voices of the Future 2022 was held concurrently in Bangkok, the capital of Thailand. The topic aligned with APEC 2022: "Open. Connect. Balance. A post-COVID-19 economic recovery in the Asia Pacific region that addresses the imbalances and inequalities exposed and exacerbated by the pandemic".

APEC is an effective multilateral forum because of the diversity of its members and the sectors from which it draws its policy recommendations. Moreover, its youth's idealism, innovative spirit, and eagerness to make their mark in the world make them an effective platform for change. To capture their voices at the APEC Voices Program in 2022, they asked, "What can youth do to ensure a balanced, sustainable and inclusive future for their generation?"

The APEC Voices of the Future featured youth representatives and educators from Australia, Canada, the People's Republic of China, Hong Kong, China, Indonesia, Japan, Mexico, New Zealand, the Philippines, Singapore, Chinese Taipei, United States of America, Vietnam and Thailand.

**"This is a crucial time for Thailand as the world's spotlight is on the country as one of the member economies, tasked with charting the economic policy and paradigm for the region and the world."**

**"The cooperation and determination from all sectors, especially the partnership between the public and private sector, are keys to building a sustainable and inclusive future."**

**"Governments can implement measures to reform the infrastructure and to build an ecosystem that is friendly to the business and economy but in the end it is up to the private sector's resilience and creativity to drive the economy forward and foster prosperity."**

— Prayut Chan-o-cha, Prime Minister of Thailand



APEC Voices 2022 delegation at the BCG exhibition at Queen Sirikit National Convention Centre.

# APEC Voices of the Future 2022 Opening Ceremony

The opening ceremony was held on 13 November 2022 at the new assembly hall of Vajiravudh College. The hall was graciously bestowed by His Majesty King Rama IX, also known as King Vajiravudh.

The ceremony was graced by Thani Thongphakdi, Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Thailand, and Chair, of the APEC Senior Official Meeting. It was attended by:

- \* The Honourable Tan Sri Dr Rebecca Fatima Sta Maria, Executive Director, APEC Secretariat;
- \* Police-General Chaktip Chaijinda, Chairman, Royal Patronage Old Vajiravudh Student Association;
- \* Ambassador Kiettikun Chatprasert, Headmaster of Vajiravudh College;
- \* James Soh, Co-Chair, APEC Voices Leadership Council;
- \* The Ambassadors of the APEC Member Economies in Thailand;

supporters and donors of the APEC Voices 2022; and delegates and educators from the 14 APEC Member Economies.

All who attended praised the clockwork precision of the event. Attending such an event at a prestigious, stately palace was a once-in-a-lifetime experience for many APEC Voices delegates.



James Soh, Co-Chair, APEC Voices Leadership Council delivering the welcome address at the APEC Voices 2022 Opening Ceremony at the Vajiravudh College.

**“The APEC Voices of the Future Program is a unique platform for young people to establish a network of youth leaders in the region. Equally important, it gives APEC Leaders and business leaders an important opportunity to engage and be inspired by the youth.”**

**H.E. Don Pramudwinai  
Deputy Prime Minister and  
Minister of Foreign Affairs, Thailand**



The Honourable Thani Thongphakdi, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and SOM Chair 2022, Thailand.



The Honourable Tan Sri Dr Rebecca Fatima Sta Maria, Executive Director, APEC Secretariat.



Officials, supporters and APEC Voices of the Future 2022 delegates at the Vajiravudh College.

# APEC Voices of the Future 2022 Youth Forum

After the opening ceremony, delegates moved to the adjacent building for the plenary session. Attendees presented the role of youth in their respective home economies and the Asia Pacific region. The topics covered were wide-ranging and thought-provoking. "Health Equity -- Why it matters and how to achieve it" and "Quantification of Marine Litter Using Images Processing", in particular, attracted many questions from the floor. It was an engaging dialogue. The delegates were divided into three groups to discuss the topics: "Open to all opportunities", "Connect in all dimensions", and "Balance in all aspects".

A fourth group representing all 14 member economies was selected to draft the APEC Youth Declaration. They worked under the guidance of two APEC educators: Taweesak Paopanlop, Director, Kiatnakin Financial Group, Thailand, and Prof Cleveland Robert Fraser, Furman University, South Carolina, U.S.A., as well as James Soh, Co-Chair, APEC Voices Leadership Council.



APEC Voices Youth Representatives discussing and drafting the APEC Voices 2022 Youth Declaration with the officials.



Dialogue with Aukrit Unahalekhaka CEO (Thailand), Ricut moderated by Dr Pipat Luengnaruemitchai, Deputy Head of Research & Head of Economist, Kiatnakin Phatra Securities.



APEC Voices delegates and Thai youths attending the APEC Voices Youth Forum 2022 at the Vajiravudh College Auditorium.



Group presentation on the Environmental Sustainability.



Group presentation on Food Security and Climate Change.



Group presentation on the theme: "Open to All Opportunities".



Group presentation on the theme: "Balance in All Aspects".

## Meeting with the Prime Minister of Thailand



Manassaya Ploynumpol, Thai APEC Voices representative presenting the APEC Voices 2022 Youth Declaration to the Prime Minister of Thailand on behalf of the APEC Voices 2022 Delegates.

The meeting with H.E. Prayut Chan-o-cha, Prime Minister of Thailand, at the Prime Minister's Office on 14 November 2022 was a highlight of the APEC Voices 2022. The Prime Minister was delighted to receive the APEC Voices 2022 Youth Declaration from the Thai Youth Representative. He also presented each youth leader with a Prime Minister's collar pin.

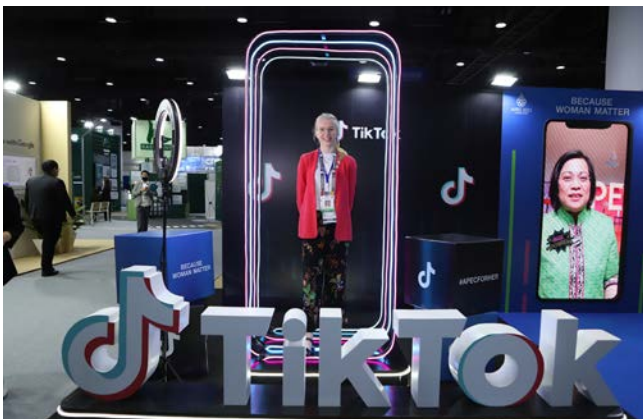
After that, H.E. Prime Minister Prayut broke protocol by inviting the representatives to tour his office and the beautiful gardens within the compound.

## Visit to BCG Exhibition

The delegates were honoured to be invited to the BCG Exhibition at the Queen Sirikit National Convention Center by the Prime Minister as his special guests. He officially launched the BCG Exhibition on 14 November 2022. The Thai Government introduced the Bio-Circular-Green Economy (BCG) model as a strategy for national development and post-pandemic recovery.



APEC Voices Delegates with the Honourable Chadchart Sittipunt, Governor of Bangkok at the BCG Exhibition.



New Zealand APEC Voices Delegate on Tik Tok.



Senior Thai Government Officials and APEC Voices Youth Representatives and Officials with H.E. Prayut Chan-o-cha, Prime Minister of Thailand at the Prime Minister's Office.



APEC Voices Officials and Youth Representatives with H.E. Prime Minister Prayut Chan-o-cha at the Government House of Thailand.



H.E. Prayut Chan-o-cha, Prime Minister of Thailand with APEC Voices Delegates at the opening of the BCG Exhibition.



APEC Voices delegates engaging the robot at the BCG Exhibition.

## Visit to NaRaYa

To showcase the BCG economy, delegates toured NaRaYa, one of Thailand's leading brands that manufacture high-quality handbags using local fabrics and craftsmanship.



A warm welcome from the Senior Management of NaRaYa at their headquarters, Bangkok.

## Visit to PTT LNG LMPT1

The delegates spent the fourth-day visiting PTT LNG LMPT1, a liquefied natural gas cold energy usage plant in Thailand. Delegates were briefed on the LNG value chain, cold energy usage, and how new air separation can benefit the Thai economy. The delegates also visited the PTT Environmental Program within its premises to understand various initiatives involving reforestation and sustainable growth.



Visit to PPTLNG Plant at Mueang Rayong District, Rayong Province, Thailand.



Site visit to the Centre of Excellence for forest conservation at PTT LNG Plant.



A special birthday surprise celebration organized by the CEO of NaRaYa for the New Zealand APEC Voices Delegate.



Learning Thai craft during their visitation at NaRaYa Headquarters.



Visit to the Floral Exhibition Hall, where cold air from the LNG are used to cultivate temperate flowers and strawberries.



APEC Voices Delegates with Senior Officials after a fruitful dialogue at the PPTLNG Plant.

## “Let’s Code Thailand”

“Let’s Code Thailand” was an event to celebrate the launch of a partnership among APEC Thailand 2022, the Ministry of Higher Education, Science, Research and Innovation of Thailand with the Asia Foundation, Digital Makers Asia Pacific and Google. The partnership focuses on creating and improving programming resources, emphasizing regional localization. It was designed with inclusivity, accessibility, and sustainability in mind.

APEC Voices delegates attended the launch event at the Westin Sukhumvit Hotel and were welcomed by the Asia Foundation. Mr Thomas Parks, Representative for Thailand of The Asia Foundation, expressed how he looked forward to working with the APEC Voices Secretariat in 2023 in San Francisco during the U.S. APEC Year.



“Let’s Code Thailand” Opening Ceremony graced by The Honourable , Mr Thani Thongphakdi, Permanent Secretary & SOM Chair of Thailand.



APEC Voices delegates attending the “Let’s Code Thailand” event at Westin Sukhumvit Hotel, Bangkok.



APEC Voices delegates with officials of Asia Foundation at the “Let’s Code Thailand” event.

## Visit to Panyapiwat Institute of Management (PIM)

The delegates also visited the Panyapiwat Institute of Management, Thailand’s first and most prominent corporate university. It was founded in 2007 by CP ALL Public Company Limited. PIM pioneered a curriculum that teaches corporate values and sustainability for society’s work-based education, leveraging the expertise of CP ALL PLC. It aims to produce academically skilled and job-ready graduates, developing human resources whose knowledge and skills align better with market needs, including partners in various businesses. It was eye-opening for the delegates to learn how Thailand prepares their young people for the job market with their talents and skills.

After a long day of visits, the youth delegates found time to swim at the Royal Navy Senior Club. Dinner was a relaxing barbecue seafood treat.



APEC Voices delegates learning the art of Thai traditional Thai milk tea.



APEC Voices delegates with the Senior Officials and trainers of Panyapiwat Institute of Management (PIM).



Learning the Thai cuisine at the PIM Culinary School.

## Meeting with APEC Leaders

The APEC Leaders' and Ministers' schedules in Bangkok were extremely tight during APEC Leaders' Week. The APEC Voices delegates briefly met with H.E. Jacinda Ardern, Prime Minister of New Zealand, at the fringe of the APEC CEO Summit. The APEC Voices Singapore delegates had an hour of engaging meeting with H.E. Dr Maliki Osman, Second Minister for Foreign Affairs and Second Minister for Education of Singapore, at the Novotel Hotel.



Singapore' APEC Voices Delegates meeting H.E. Dr Maliki Osman, Second Minister for Foreign Affairs and Second Minister for Education, Singapore.



New Zealand's APEC Voices Delegates with H.E. Jacinda Ardern, Prime Minister of New Zealand at the fringe of the APEC CEO Summit 2022.

## APEC Voices 2022 Closing Ceremony

The APEC Voices 2022 Closing Ceremony cum Cultural Night was on the final evening and one of the program's highlights. Friendship bonds were strengthened after spending a week together, filled with excitement, discovery and making new friends from the Asia Pacific region. One of the ceremony's highlights was the presentation of the prestigious June Mayne Gould Award to the most outstanding young leader of APEC Voices 2022. The winner was Napassorn Pisitpong from the Thammasat University of Thailand.

Delegates performed songs and dances, showing their gratitude to the organizers who had put in much effort. Despite various challenges, APEC Voices 2022 in Bangkok was a success and an event to be remembered for a long time.



James Soh, Co-Chair, APEC Voices Leadership Council presenting the Certificate of Participation to the Canadian Educator.



Cultural performances by APEC Voices 2022 Delegates from various economies at the closing ceremony.



## Sincere Appreciation and Gratitude

James Soh, Co-Chair of APEC Voices of the Future Leadership Council, thanked each APEC Member Economy for their support and the APEC Voices delegates for their cooperation and support in making the event a huge success. He said the most important takeaway was that youth leaders and educators had overcome many challenges during the APEC CEO Summit and emerged stronger. Finally, he bid farewell to all delegates and educators and wished them a safe journey home.

The evening concluded with the handover to the host economy of next year's APEC Voices of the Future 2024, the United States of America.



James Soh, Co-Chair, APEC Voices Leadership Council presenting the June Mayne Gould Leadership Award 2022 to Napassorn Pisitpong of Thammasat University.



Chutchaval Thanvarachon, Co-Chair APEC Voices 2022 Thai Working Committee handing the APEC Voices 2023 plaque to USA, the host of APEC Voices 2023, witnesses by Mr Soh.

The APEC Voices Leadership and the APEC Voices Secretariat would like to thank the Host Economy, Thailand, especially

- \* H.E. Prayut Chan-o-cha, Prime Minister of Thailand;
- \* H.E. Don Pramudwinai, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of Thailand, for his message;
- \* Thani Thongphakdi, Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Thailand and Chair, Thai Senior Official Meeting (SOM);
- \* Tan Sri Dr Rebecca Fatima Sta. Maria, Executive Director, APEC Secretariat;
- \* Ambassador Kiattikhun Chartprasert, Headmaster, Vajiravudh College;
- \* Police-General Chaktip Chaijinda, Chairman, Old Vajiravudh Student Association
- \* Banyong Pongpanich, Chairman, Executive Committee, Kiatnakin Phatra Financial Group;
- \* Dr Rutchaneeporn Pookayaporn Phukkamarn, President of Sripatum University;
- \* James Soh, Executive Director, National Youth Achievement Award Council, Singapore and Co-Chair, APEC Voices Leadership Council;
- \* Professor Noel Gould, Co-Chair, APEC Voices Leadership Council, USA;
- \* Aileen Yap, Co-Chair, APEC Voices 2022 Working Committee;
- \* Chutchaval Thanvarachon, Co-Chair, APEC Voices 2022 Working Committee and Members of the APEC Voices Thai Working Committee;
- \* NaRaYa, Narai Intertrade Co Ltd;
- \* PTTLNG LMPT1;
- \* Panyapiwat Institute of Management (PIM);
- \* Centara Grand at Central Plaza, Ladprao, Bangkok; Thailand
- \* The June Mayne Gould Leadership Award;
- \* The Asia Foundation; and
- \* Let's Code Thailand Partners.

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