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YAP
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UNFPA Thailand
Youth Advisory Panel
2008-2009 Report

YAP
who we are?
what we do?

UNFPA, the United Nations Population Fund, is an international development agency that promotes the right of every woman, man and child to enjoy a life of health and equal opportunity. UNFPA supports countries in using population data for policies and programmes to reduce poverty and to ensure that every pregnancy is wanted, every birth is safe, every young person is free of HIV/AIDS, and every girl and woman is treated with dignity and respect.

UNFPA - because everyone counts



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Foreword

Foreword

It gives me great honor to present the UNFPA Thailand Youth Advisory Panel 2008-2009 Report. This report reflects the voice of young people, and demonstrates the impact of their involvement in critical programmes and policies related to adolescents and youth reproductive health.

UNFPA (United Nations Population Fund) works across sectors, with partners and young people themselves to promote and protect the rights of adolescents and youth to grow up healthy and safe. It promotes young people's rights to access sexual and reproductive health information, education, commodities and services, in connection to the commitments of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) endorsed by many governments, including Thailand. To make this happen, we must view young people's lives in totality rather than in fragments, and empower young people to develop skills to achieve their dream, think critically, negotiate risky situation, express themselves freely, and participate in decisions that affects them.

In 2008, UNFPA Country Office Thailand adopted an approach to youth involvement through the establishment of the Youth Advisory Panel (YAP). YAP has allowed UNFPA to engage youth in policy development and programming, to help build the capacity of young people and strengthen their leadership and technical skills to better address sexual reproductive health issues, and sensitize other adults of the necessity in youth-adult partnership.

The Panel members has grown as agents of change determined to contribute their energy, creativity, and insights to the growth and progress of social development, which will certainly go beyond their roles as YAP.

This Report is an introduction of YAP - "Who they are" and "What they do". It highlights YAP's group experience and initiatives, and the personal impacts of the experience as told by each member. Through their kaleidoscope of opportunities, YAP outlines five visions it sees important in the comprehensive development of the livelihood and health of young people.

It is hope that this Report will be used by policymakers, educators, and youth programme practitioners, to learn more on what works in youth engagement and ways forward in the comprehensive development of young people's sexual reproductive health from the perspectives of young people themselves. I also hope this will strengthen the case for recognizing the talents, assets, and contributions of young people, and the global impacts they make when opportunities are given.

Last but not least, I would like to extend my heartfelt appreciation to YAP members for their dedication and contribution in charting their meaningful journey and colleagues of UNFPA Country Office Thailand for supervising and supporting the preparation of this Report.

Najib Assifi,
UNFPA Representative in Thailand



Who's YAP

Who's YAP?

YOUTH ADVISORY PANEL

UNFPA Thailand's YAP consist of 20 young people from different regions of the country ranging from 16-24 years of age with a mandate to participate and contribute in the development of policies, programmes, and activities to improve young people's reproductive health and rights in Thailand



YAP Vision

YAP Vision

We, YAP, has had the opportunity to address and advise on issues that affect young people's sexual and reproductive health and rights. Through this experience, we have identified key factors, which if successfully adopted and developed, could potentially contribute to the comprehensive development in the livelihood and health of adolescents and youth.

We fully support and plan to diligently work towards achieving the following:

- 1 YAP would like young people in Thailand to pay more attention and better understand their sexual reproductive health and rights.
- 2 YAP would like kindhearted adults to support and provide opportunities for young people to demonstrate their fullest potential, and express their opinions and make decision on matters that affects their sexual reproductive health and rights.
- 3 YAP would like communities to create enabling environments optimal for young people to safely express themselves
- 4 YAP would like to see schools, public health facilities, and local administrative organizations support and provide sufficient quality sexual and reproductive health information, services, and counseling to young people, including pregnant teens, out-of-school youth, young sex workers, young migrant workers, and young people living with HIV/AIDS
- 5 YAP would like to encourage schools, public health facilities, and non-governmental organizations programming on young people to adopt and invest in peer-education, a process in which young people can seek friendly advice from their peers, as a method of effective health promotion



the ABC's of YAP Experience

the ABC's of YAP Experience

Since our establishment in June 2008, UNFPA has supported us in meaningful participation of programmes, policies and activities that contributes to improving young people's sexual and reproductive health and rights in Thailand. This support aligns with UNFPA dedicated commitment to its Framework for Action on Adolescent and Youth (refer to table 1). We have made the most of the opportunity, made it fun in our own style, and made a big leap towards true partnership between young people and adults. We have identified some of our work and achievements that are fundamental to our panel, and are as basic as the A-B-C's.

Advise and Advocate on emerging issues, programmes, policies, and actions of Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights that affects young people to ensure that the reality of young people's lives and needs are reflected

Building up Capacity in sectoral knowledge, technical know-how and skills to enhance ability to achieve mandate strategically with confidence and agility

Cooperate with networks partners and key stakeholders working in areas of youth sexual reproductive health to share lessons learnt, consolidate resources, and work together as a powerful force



Advise and Advocate

Youth Reproductive Rights Survey : Created and collected surveys to gauge the level of peer's awareness of their reproductive rights. After analyzing the data gathered, we realized that most of our peers do not know their rights to reproductive health information and services, and many do not know the seemingly complex term "reproductive health". This set the baseline for our work, including advocacy initiatives to raise awareness amongst our peers and other young people in our networks of their sexual reproductive rights.

ICPD Plan of Action on Young People : Assessed the International Conference on Population Development (ICPD) Plan of Action on young people and Thailand's progress in fulfilling its promise. We addressed the key gaps to ensuring universal access to sexual and reproductive health services, education and information for all young people at ICPD+15 national consultative meetings and regional review meetings.

Peer Education Programme : Visited UNFPA supported school peer-education programmes in Lampang province, and met with teachers and peer-educators of the program. Based on our observations and discussions, key recommendations such as the need to customize peer-education training curriculums to varying types of schools and the pressing need for interventions to ensure "safe-sex" messages and attitudes are conveyed rather than "no sex" abstinence-only approaches were presented to the provincial public health office. These and other recommendations and priorities were recognized and recently included into Lampang's 2010 workplan.

National Standards of Youth Friendly Services: Reviewed the draft of the national standards and provided critical reviews to the Ministry of Public Health. Our recommendations included the need to involve youth participation in the design of the standards and for more specific and clear standards to avoid misinterpretations. We included these recommendations on Solution Exchange² and suggested them to UNFPA for further follow-up.



¹ Fifteen years ago at the 1994 International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) in Cairo, 179 governments agreed an inspiring and visionary plan to give universal access to services and information to improve the sexual and reproductive health of everyone by 2015.

² Solution Exchange, an initiative of the United Nations Agencies, harnesses the power of Communities of Practitioners (CoPs) communication to help attain national development goals and the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), leveraging the knowledge, experience and energies of development practitioners towards the common objective of problem-solving.



Building up Capacity

Basic Reproductive Health 101: Acquired knowledge on the effectiveness and methods of different contraceptive; symptoms, diagnosis, and treatment of different STIs and HIV/AIDS; symptoms of pregnancy; and life skills including negotiation and risk assessment. The session answered our burning questions related to sexual reproductive health – and provided us valuable accurate information to better fulfill our mandate.

Professional Etiquette: Gained simple tips on ethnics of respecting other individuals in the professional setting and displaying courteous behaviors. We learned how to give handshakes, how to properly introduce and greet others, how to dress for business functions, how to be courteous during a business dinner, and how to be a good conservationist (the importance of being a good attentive listener). This experience helped us gain confidence in bridging positive relations with our adult partners.

Advocacy Writing: Trained to frame advocacy messages mindful of the audience, tone, and precision of key message. This skill has assisted us in delivering more effective and concise messages and recommendations.

Participatory Focus Group Approach: Learned how to apply theatre as a community community media in conducting participatory focus groups in problem solving, critical dialogue, cultural learning, and community mapping. We applied the process of image theatre and community mapping during our trip to Lampang to better identify key challenges of peer-educators, and assess their demands for youth friendly health services.

Gains from National and Regional Forums: Received invaluable opportunities to participate in national and regional meetings, workshops and conference that has allowed use to enhance our sectoral knowledge; gain best practices from other programmes and countries; strengthen our networking skills; boost our confidence in speaking English; and foster our personal growth.



Cooperate & Networking

Youth Alliances: collaborated with other young people involved in promoting and supporting the well-being of young people. We explored partnership opportunities with YPEER to strengthen the standards of peer-education in Thailand, and worked with the National Youth Council to draft Thailand's Youth Declaration. Working with other young agents of change has influenced our work and visions, to ensure that the diverse needs of young people are included.

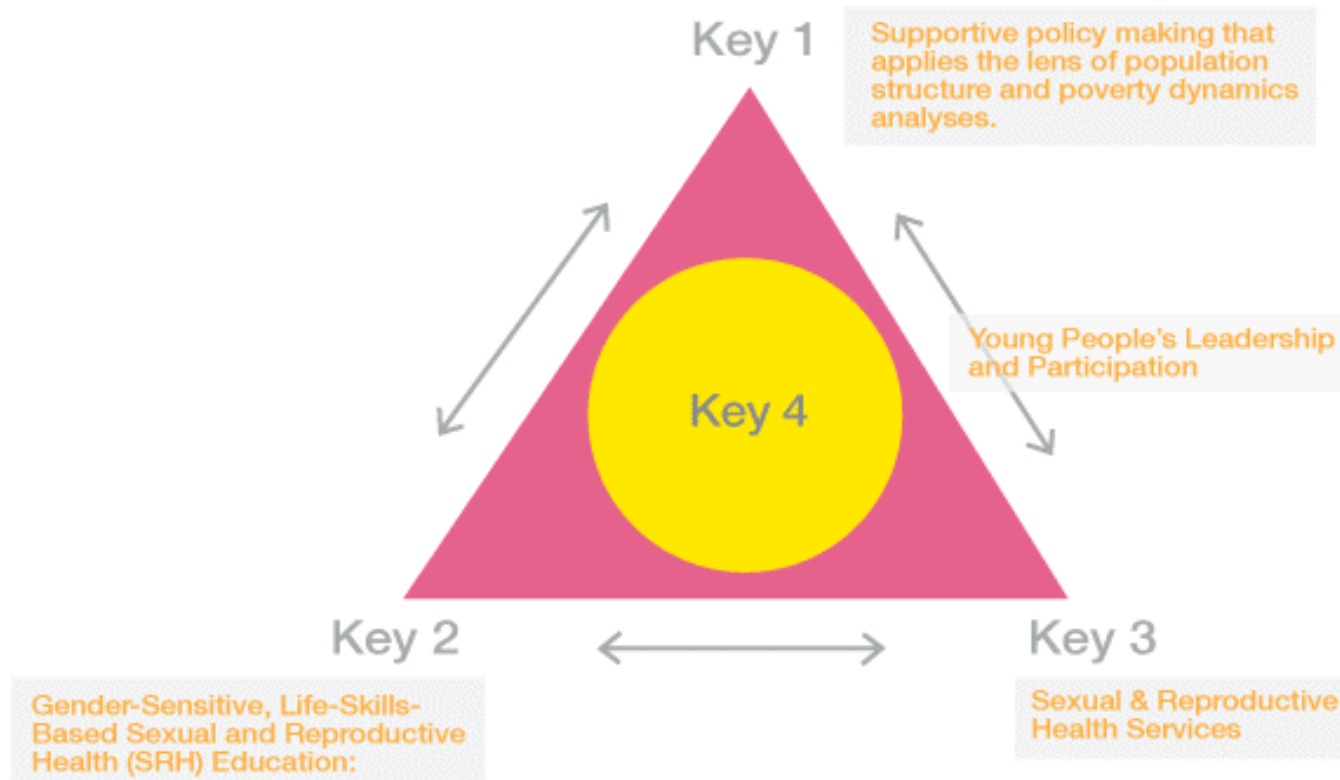
Government: teamed up with the local and central government on agendas to strengthen the sexual and reproductive health of young people. We designed and facilitated a sex education and life-skill walk rally for the training of youth DJs in partnership with the Ministry of Public Health, Department of Health, Division of Reproductive Health; and contributed in the Lampang Provincial Public Health Office Youth Sexual and Reproductive Health (YSRH) programme annual work plan.

NGOs: worked together with the Planned Parenthood Association of Thailand (PPAT) on the 15andcounting campaign to promote the 15th Anniversary of the International Conference on Population Development (ICPD+15) and its commitment to young people, particularly their rights to sexual and reproductive health information, counselling and services. "<http://www.thai15andcounting.com>"



Table1 : UNFPA Framework for Action on Adolescent and Youth

The Framework for Action was developed to contribute to the comprehensive development in education, livelihoods, and citizenship of adolescents and youth. It also function as a guide and strategic position of UNFPA's support of Adolescent Sexual and Reproductive Health (ASRH). The Framework consist of the following four key areas:



The Four Keys

Key 1: Supportive policy making that applies the lens of population structure and poverty dynamics analyses: UNFPA will focus public policy on young people and incorporate their issues in national Millennium Development Goal (MDG)³-based development and poverty reduction strategies.

Key 2: Gender-Sensitive, Life-Skills-Based Sexual and Reproductive Health (SRH) Education: UNFPA will take a lead in facilitating the provision of comprehensive, gender-sensitive, life skills-based SRH education in schools and community settings.

Key 3: Sexual & Reproductive Health Services: UNFPA will promote a core package of health and sexual reproductive health services and commodities that will include, at a minimum, contraception, HIV prevention, and maternal health services.

Key 4: Young People's Leadership and Participation: UNFPA will give special attention to working "with" young people through meaningful youth-adult partnerships. This includes the commitment and support given to the Youth Advisory Panel (YAP).

The Four Keys can be visualized as a pyramid - the apex is the Key on Policy, Population and Poverty, the base of the pyramid comprise of the two Keys of Sexual Reproductive Health Education and Services. Youth Participation is a crosscutting component of all Keys and strategically positioned at the core of the pyramid. The two-way arrows indicate that each key feeds into and reinforces one other.

³ Millennium Development Goal (MDG): UNFPA's role has to achieve MDG 2 on education, MDG 3 on gender equality, MDG 5 on maternal mortality, and MDG 6 on HIV prevention.

Personal Experiences



Apichat Muenjongjaidee (Toey)
20 years old, Chonburi Province, majoring in Educational Technology, Faculty of Education, Burapha University.

→ YAP has provided me with a wonderful opportunity, allowing me to become good both at receiving new ideas and offering my own ideas. YAP has provided me with various opportunities to learn from other YAP team members about the subject of reproductive health, enabling me to realize the importance of child and youth rights, to gain interpersonal skills and to comprehend life and workplace necessities. Moreover, YAP has given me an opportunity to be feel different and to actually work on independent ideas. This has allowed me to change greatly and learn more. Not only do we have a lot of fun working as a team but we've also really work well together. Being with YAP is definitely a time to remember as well as an invaluable life experience. More importantly, it makes me stronger. Thank you, everyone, for creating YAP: United Nations, the people of the world, my lovely mentors at YAP who have given me the opportunity, advice, and good guidance to my life. I'm hoping only good things will happen to everyone. 🙏

Apichat Muenjongjaidee (Toey)

→ I feel so good to have become a working part of this organization. Ever since the first day of its setup, I'd played a part in a brainstorming camp and found out that it was very interesting. Therefore, when it was announced that they were seeking applicants I wasted no time- I enthusiastically submitted my application. In fact, I took my friends with me so they could also apply. At first, I basically thought about finding myself some working experience with an international organization, and seeing how work is done in such an organization. However, once I'd joined the team, and learnt to work as a team with others both those who are younger and older than I am - I found everyone was so friendly and welcoming. We have had so much fun learning about so many topics together ever since the first camp. Before joining the team, I possibly held a narrower view of the world. However, having joined the team and meeting our "brothers and sisters" allowed me to learn that, in fact, our world is so wide and open. While I took part in many activities organized by YAP, I did unfortunately miss some due to other commitments. However, for the projects in which I've been involved I love all of them. And the most important thing I've learnt from working with YAP is the value of "teamwork". 🙏

Arunchat Khuruwanich (Smith)



Arunchat Khuruwanich (Smith)
22 years old, Bangkok, Chairman of the Bangkok Youth Council, National Children and Youth Development Promotion committee member.

— → Being a YAP member has allowed me to obtain a good deal of knowledge -- even trifles which I would otherwise simply have overlooked -- thanks to my "brothers and sisters" from the YAP team who act as a link. I have learnt how to work systematically and to coordinate well with other organizations. With YAP, I got to work with large organizations and learn how to behave; as a result, I have become mature. Moreover, through activities organized by YAP, I was also given the opportunity to communicate knowledge to others. More importantly, YAP is like a family, full of tender, loving care from "brothers and sisters", providing an endless stream of knowledge. ●

Atchara Saithong (Am)



Atchara Saithong (Am)
18 years old, Bangkok,
Grade 12,
Chanhunbamphen School.



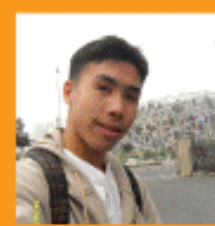
Caremeh (Mouse)
20 year old,
Mae Hong Son Province.

— → Caremeh is an ethnic Red Karen from Mae Hong Son Province. She made valuable contribution in the review of the National Standard of Youth Friendly Services. Caremeh has recently relocated to the United States. YAP will miss her, but wishes her all the very best. ●

Caremeh (Mouse)

— → I have had an opportunity to work with my "brothers and sisters" -- who initially were strangers to me -- from the YAP team. Everyone is definitely talented. Though I somewhat felt intimidated due to the challenging scale of assigned projects, everyone from the YAP team always kept encouraging me. Once my friends have learnt that I am "YAP", they find it relatively easier to consult with me on Sexual and Reproductive health issues. One of the good times at work was when we were on site at Thailand's Northern Province "Lampang," where I had an opportunity to witness the local youth's good understanding of reproductive health, as well as to see how they get to deal with emergency problems. Moreover, I have taken with me this invaluable working experience, as a YAP team member, to Beijing, China, as well. The point I'd like to make to organizations involved on ensuring access to reproductive health for youth in my community is that discussing about sex, including as part of a school curriculum through sexual education is still an embarrassing topic for many. Organizations need to give reproductive health education greater importance, as young people are our nation's future. If they fail to understand correctly the concept of reproductive health, problems such as abortion, school drop outs, being bullied, and drug addiction, will take place. ●

Karlson Dokmai (Nick)



Karlson Dokmai (Nick)
18 years old,
Mae Hong Son Province,
Grade 12, hoping to pursue
higher-level education
in the field of psychology.



Kittiphan Kanjina (Tao)
24 years old,
Chiang Rai Province,
currently working for
Center for Girls of Chiang Rai
and Youth Net.

— → I have been determined to ensure that both children and young people are actively part of a team to monitor, promote and work on HIV prevention, creating good health and reproductive health in cooperation with adults; working as a team with them -- particularly as equal partners. Thanks to UNFPA, "such" an atmosphere has been made possible. I am delighted to have been blessed with love and warmth from our friends at YAP. We might come from different backgrounds -- in location, culture, religion, work experience and skill level -- but overcoming our limitations, we somehow have molded into the power of one, as we have remained supportful to each other and became active at work, making a good use of our respective skills. Whether working for YAP as a key organizer itself, or as a partner working with other teams, all YAP team members have proven to be full of life and selflessness, not to mention a tribute for their contemporaries, pushing through for the topic of reproductive health rights. We are doing this voluntarily and aiming at improving ourselves and society. I'd like to thank UNFPA for providing us with the opportunity to care for our society and improving ourselves, the experience of which has proven greatly memorable and contributory to the next generations of YAP in times to come -- for safety and happiness among the youth and children. ●

Kittiphan Kanjina (Tao)



Lalita Intasean (ThungOa)
23 years old,
graduate of the Mahidol University
International College,
Faculty of Social Sciences,
and active member of the Planned
Parenthood Association of Thailand
(PPAT) Youth Committee.

– → Being a “YAP” not only allows us to express our opinions but also enables us young people to take part in a practical team on the topic of youth and reproductive health. This has been the case national and international conferences abroad. For example, for The Fifth Asia Pacific Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights Conference, at Beijing, China, as YAP representatives, we brought with us our account of Lampang field work and that of participations by young people. During the conference, we met YAP contemporaries from other countries with whom we shared our work experiences, as well as other points of interest. In Beijing, we also demonstrated our team’s (Thailand YAP) potential, and in return we gained wonderful international experience in regard to different viewpoints on reproductive health. ●

Lalita Intasean (ThungOa)



La-Ongdao Booddeekham (Pla)
20 years old,
Faculty of Nurse
(International Section),
Chiang Mai University.

– →Joining YAP allowed me to share my experiences, learn how to build network and work with others, as well as how to apply it my daily life. Moreover, I have had the opportunity to represent and participate in many activities organized by different organizations. Being a YAP team member has given me the opportunity to demonstrate my potential and determination, thus allowing me to be a good role model for children, young people and friends. ●

La-Ongdao Booddeekham (Pla)

– → I applied to be a YAP team member because I wanted to represent Thai youth in conveying problems to adults, making them understand and provide assistance. I was given this opportunity by UNFPA in which my potential has been enhanced to work on sexual and reproductive health issues. Being a YAP team member allows me to realize the importance of reproductive health. I’ve learnt about it to the point of understanding that I find it natural to discuss the matter with people. Because of this, I have grown and now know how to work as part of a team to solve problems. This is because UNFPA has been kind enough to allow us the freedom of thought to work on our own. More importantly, I have received friendship from friends at YAP! We work like brothers and sisters, always helpful to each other, consulting with one another when problems arise, whether for personal or professional reasons. Moreover, as a YAP team member, I was given an opportunity to attend an Advanced Training for Trainers in Peer Education Program, in Jordan. For this reason, I’ve become a Y-Peer (Youth Peer Education) focal point in Thailand. Certainly, I will continue working hard in the peer education field, through creating networks and providing peer education. Another memorable experience was the 5th Asia Pacific Conference on Reproductive and Sexual Health and Rights, at Beijing, China, in which we shared our experiences with YAP team members from other countries, as well enabling us to work on the international stage. ●

Nicha Jitjang (Kwang)



Nicha Jitjang (Kwang)
22 years old,
Samut Prakan province,
Faculty of Social Work,
Thammasat University.



Nur-ar Taba

– →Nur-ar is from Thailand’s southern most province of Narathiwat. She contributed tremendously in surveying her peers of their awareness of young people’s reproductive rights, and the reviewing of the National Standards of Youth Friendly Services. ●

Nur-ar Taba

— → YAP has provided me with such a valuable experience. I have got to learn and feel the touch of new experiences which can be found nowhere else. I got to know and work with YAP team members from all regions in Thailand, especially those whose traditional culture and religious faiths differ from mine. I got to work closely with the good people at UNFPA who have been kind enough to provide me with their first-class support. Moreover, I have had the opportunity to meet people from different sectors, whether it be young people working in different disciplines or adults working on youth related issues. My most wonderful experience was when I got to share my work experiences with contemporaries from other countries during international conferences abroad, which allowed me to learn more about foreign perspectives and the existence of a large number of youth networks worldwide. Moreover, I have obtained skills and knowledge on reproductive health and the field of population. I've had opportunities whereby my knowledge was applied to the good of myself and friends. What I've received has been enormous. I'd like to thank UNFPA for such a wonderful opportunity. Thank you. 🍀

Pattana Jindapraneekul (Pat)



Pattana Jindapraneekul (Pat)

20 years old, Bangkok, International Affairs, Faculty of Political Science, Thammasat University.

— → YAP is not only a group of young people working together, but a family of youth working for the benefit of reproductive health and Thai children's rights. Being part of YAP has given me the invaluable experiences. Thank you, UNFPA, for giving a young person, barely without any work experience, like me a chance. I have found that YAP has become to mean so much to my life. Everyone at YAP is really caring, open to my opinions and sincerely ready to give me an opportunity. I had once lived a life only for myself, having nothing much to do with "activities". However, at YAP, I've learnt that working as a team for the good of society could become something rewarding. If we simply lived our lives for ourselves, then we would never understand anything outside our own island. But if we start thinking about others, we may become less selfish, that is, wishing to do something good for others. With this in mind, in the end, we could comprehend the true meaning of happiness. That is, a driving force named YAP has given me the energy to want to do something for others. Although we still need more practice, I believe that, with our strong determination and continual effort, it's just a matter of time before someone out there is certainly going to benefit from our work. 🍀

Phassara Waiyarnuk (Whan)



Phassara Waiyarnuk (Whan)

18 years old, Chonburi province, Faculty of Arts, Chulalongkorn University.

— → "YAP" has turned sand into stone, and created a great rock full of stones. If this great rock is thrown into water, it will create a ripple effect, making great waves. Since I was young, I have been given the opportunity from many people. I would like to pay back my gratitude by creating a good society, as well as learning new things. That's why I submitted an application to join YAP. Almost two years has gone by and "this tiny grain of sand," through obtaining knowledge, has turned into a little stone. Thank you, UNFPA, for giving us the opportunity to learn and share. YAP makes me believe that what we, as well as other young people around the world, are doing really means something special, and produces true change. We do have kindhearted adults who are kind and have allowed us, the young people, the opportunity to work as a team. This will enable new generations to join us in the future. YAP will serve as an agent between children and adults, at local, national and international levels. Moreover, because of YAP, I have decided to study Economic Development. The experience from field work gave me an interest in policies pertaining to elderly people and society, and I, therefore, have applied for an exchange student program in Japan. I am hoping that I can bring knowledge and experience from YAP to Japan and, upon returning to Thailand, help create good things for the future. Let's walk together, and create good things for a world full of smiles and understanding. 🍀

Pattana Sirion (Na)



Pattana Sirion (Na)

20 years old, Faculty of Economics, Chulalongkorn University, will soon study at the Rikkyo University in Japan as an exchange student.



Suchita Manajit (Chu-chu)

22 years old, currently studying in the United Kingdom as a Master Candidate in Marketing

— → "Time has gone so fast. Do what you want to do, but don't just live your life around all those textbooks." That was what seniors always said to the freshmen. My life once was only for myself, family and friends. One day I did somehow realize that we should do something in return for our society. Therefore I submitted an application for a place in YAP despite having no knowledge about UNFPA, reproductive health and rights at all. I was surprised when I was selected, as I had had no relevant experience. Being part of YAP does not only give me the opportunity to fulfill a higher sense of responsibility, but also to give advice and pass on our knowledge to others. Thank you, UNFPA, for such an invaluable opportunity. I have realized that Thai youth need more attention from their families and the government, as one day, we will become the future of the country. I hope that, upon my graduation, I will be given an opportunity to make my own society a better place. 🍀

Suchita Manajit (Chu-chu)

→ Being a YAP team member allowed me to obtain information about situations and knowledge of reproductive health and rights. I've become an advocate for young people. Presently, I am working for the Young Muslim Association, Thailand (YMAT). This means I represent the association to work with other organizations. In our local area, at work we focus on preventive measures based on our religion. I've also been able to obtain knowledge from our field work and from meetings supported by UNFPA, including our work in Lampang province. This has helped enhance the work skills of young people, not to mention that the information obtained could be put into good use for the Youth Friendly Service Center in Yala province, and as a guideline for the center's performance appraisal. Moreover, I've a number of networks of young people working in different areas, as well as additional work experience in different fields, both of which should be of service to my future work. I've had the opportunity to exchange opinions with other YAP team members who come from different backgrounds including religions and organizations. This has allowed me to learn more about their ideas and solutions, and to help enhance my skills. UNFPA, which focuses on the clear-cut academic work, has given young people a chance to work. It has enabled young people to learn how to work with adults effectively, enabling information submitted by the youth to be taken into account by the adults – both young people and adults, working together benefit. In conclusion, joining YAP benefits everyone. The question is how and how much each one may apply what they've learnt from YAP. If UNFPA comes up with additional good projects, it would be excellent to put them into good use and support young people who used to work with YAP. ●

Suwit Mardadum (Wit)



Suwit Mardadum (Wit)
25 years old,
Pattani Province,
currently working with
the Young Muslim Association,
Thailand (YMAT).



Thapana Sanyabutra
(Organ)
21 years old,
Faculty of Law,
Thammasat University.

→ I'm a young catholic who's been brought up among the society of faith. We believe in loving one another, and praising the Lord through His missions performed by us in this given world – both material and spiritual ones. I've discovered the Lord's mercy that allows me to have worked as a YAP team member to encourage young people to protect themselves from AIDS, early pregnancy, family problems and illness within one's own body, one of the most beautiful things God has conferred upon us in this world. I believe in choice for everyone – a choice to protect ourselves and people around us. All knowledge of reproductive health represents a gift for humanity so that we may continue living in peace. I am sincerely thankful to UNFPA, YAP, and everyone who have taught me another way of live, to love and be loved in return, as well as the good experiences in which I was able to perform my tasks according to the Lord's will. Above all, thank God for conferring upon me all of the most beautiful people with whom have crossed my path. ●

Thapana Sanyabutra (Organ)



Thaveesak Srikrathum (Tee)
20 years old,
Faculty of Science,
Silpakorn University.

→ So many experiences and learning opportunities have come to me following the day I became part of the YAP team. We shared both fun and tough times at work and with our good spirit we fulfilled our mission. One of the most memorable experiences for me was the Advocacy Writing workshop in which I had both great joy and weariness. We learnt how to write well and draw people's attention to our writing. The guest speaker was dedicated and very strict because she wanted us to adopt the skills. Another wonderful experience was the time we worked in Lampang: everyone was so tired, but the air was always filled with joy and laughter. We also made visits to some schools there. Everyone was hard at work, staying up late during meetings. Being part of YAP allowed me to realize that youth working together can really make a difference – through cooperation information becomes accessible. Further, we are always straightforward in what we present. I'd like to see children and young people given more opportunities because we are ready and carry great potential to work for our nation's development. ●

Thaveesak Srikrathum (Tee)

→ YAP allows me to discover that there are many great activities waiting for us in addition to curricular ones at school or college. Being part of YAP makes me conscious and ready to provide social services to others. Moreover, I've come to realize the true power of young people through working with other YAP team members as well as the young people in local areas. I've witnessed YAP's diligence and determination. We work virtually all day and night. We might be tired but we never surrendered. I do believe that this strong determination is the true power of young people. Therefore, when I grow up and become an adult, I will never overlook this great power! Moreover, YAP helps mold me – I've grown into a person of responsibility and learnt skills required for the work, including public presentations, information analysis, advocacy writing, etc. I've also had the opportunity to participate in international conferences in which my opinions were respected as were the views of other young people. I dare to say that, without YAP, I would never have had such a wonderful experience. ●

Warinthorn Kranpikun (Som)



Warinthorn Kranpikun (Som)
25 years old,
Graduate of the Faculty of Law,
Thammasat University.

— → Being a YAP team member allows me to realize the power of young people. We might come from different places and backgrounds, but somehow we have managed to mold ourselves into a unity of efficiency. **What I've obtained from YAP is like food that sustains me for my travels,** because at YAP, I've learnt how to work with other people -- despite our "different" opinions. It is these differences, in my opinion, that helps create continual development. Working with YAP has also helped me to develop a network with other diligent young people from whom I've also learnt so many good things, through field studies organized by YAP. As a YAP team member, what I've learnt can also be applied to my daily life and local projects. I've gained stronger teamwork skills, wider vision than before, and moreover, I can pass on my knowledge obtained from YAP to friends and acquaintances. Therefore, I'd like to thank all kindhearted adults behind the scene, who are responsible for organizing all of our activities. I'd also like to thank all the good people at UNFPA who are, to me, like brothers and sisters, and kindhearted teachers, always providing us with invaluable advice. ●

Weerachat Kaewpradit (Tom)



Weerachat Kaewpradit (Tom)
19 years old, Chiang Mai province,
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Public Administration,
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Chiang Mai University.



Worrathep Wijintanasarn (Nica)
20 years old, Political Science,
an International Relations Major student,
Chulalongkorn University.

— → I have been trained on the topic of reproductive health following being selected as part of the YAP team. This has allowed me to obtain more knowledge on the topic of which I could make use for the good of myself and people around me. In addition, there were other trainings such as on social manners, -- because of this, I know how to behave and put it into good use for higher efficiency in YAP projects. Moreover, YAP also helped me work as part of a team and produce high-quality work as well. Before I joined YAP, I usually worked "solo," responsible only for myself. With YAP, however, we help each other filling the gaps of thought and together, we contribute well. However, working as a team also has one negative: it's difficult to find an opportune time in which everyone is free. So, every time I became available, I would do my best, to share my opinions with others during that meeting and ensure that the time is well spent. Though YAP, as a group, is work-oriented, we have developed bonds and so, could talk our minds on various topics. **This means we did not simply come to work and go home when things were all done. Rather, we worked together as a team, and helped each other both personally and professionally.** In my opinion, this has contributed to our rapid growth in no time. Finally, I'd like to see all our work being put into good use and contribute to positive changes in ideas and policies within organizations in need. ●

Worrathep Wijintanasarn (Nica)

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