

ASEAN Youth Camp Viet Nam 2010 "DRAGON: Legend in ASEAN Culture"

What I Felt about ASEAN Youth Camp in Viet Nam

By Laras Nintyas (Visual Artist - Indonesia)

ASEAN Youth Camp in Vietnam was totally a new experience for me. It was short break from my hectic daily activities. There, I met new friends from another ASEAN countries plus China. We exchanged words, including some bad words and I found out there are some similarities in our words. Like Indonesia with Thailand, or with Philippine. We were able to blend easily, maybe because the program was designed for us to be blended at the end. The language barrier still exist since many delegates spoke english in falter way and had limited vocab. But, since some countries has similar language, like Indonesia with Malaysia, Brunei and Singapore or Thailand with Laos, then we could help each other in speaking english with other countries delegates.

One thing I didn't comfy with was about dishes. I didn't suit with the taste, the serving order, and the pork contained because I am a moslem so I had to be quite selective for what I consumed. The weirdest was the dish order that the steamed rice always served right before dessert so it was like eating backward and this reminded me when I was in leadership training program with Marine Force. Despite all of that, I love the seafood dishes served during our stay in Ha Long Bay. The Halal food that continuously served for moslem delegates after we got back from Ha Long Bay was really helped me with taste, rich in ingredients and taste. So it was like my problem solved.

The first visual art workshop meeting result already gave us assignment, to make 2 artworks for closing ceremony exhibition. The first artwork was depended on us to decide as long as it cope with the theme, the Asian Dragon. The second's should be our dragon's collaboration, the ASEAN dragon. We decided to divide this artwork into 12 dragon's part, so after you know which part you are in then you could draw your part by your own style. We were excited but unfortunately so limited time to finish them both. Worsen, the first artwork deadline was the day after tomorrow, right after we went back from Ha Long Bay. And the worst, that the drawing materials were not ready yet until tomorrow night after we were back from city tour, so we could not started our work.

The night after we got back from city tour, we supposedly had workshop meeting with the instructor to gave him our first artwork sketch but I was glad it was cancelled. I was too tired and haven't made any sketch, so do most of my visual art friends. But we still held meeting without instructor to got our drawing material and clearing the second artwork concept. Then, started that night I drew my first artwork little by little. Thanks to Tommy who helped me a lot.

Ha Long Bay was wonderful, love the scenery and the ship hotel experience. The night event was the most remarkable regardless the chilly sea-wind (I almost could not stand it!). We were singing, dancing, and did some group game with punishment. Even though I was not so active but I had much talk with some friends. That night made all of us closer to each other.

In the last day, my instructor eventually cancelled the second artwork since we had not finished our first. I pitied it because I thought that should be our priority, to made a collaboration artwork. Since it cancelled, so after we finally finished our first artwork we set up to the exhibition space and declared ourselves as the first group that finished the workshop for the first time. The closing ceremony was designed outdoor, and outdoor was always a good idea if it was not raining. But that disaster was coming and made the arranged event messed up. So, the setting were moving indoor and I thought many of the programmes cancelled, including Indonesia performance that we already prepared to perform in the closing ceremony.

Overall, my feeling toward ASEAN Youth Camp was more likely a vacation than a cultural exchange program. But, at the end we blended and still keep contact through Facebook up until now. Still, I was a bit pitied for the late allowance given and very short shopping time. I hope the next ASEAN Youth Camp could be held with better preparation, coordination and management. I look forward to be able to participate in the similar event like this. Because for me, this kind of event very useful to expand network and boarden horizon.

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Hanoi

By Aditia Noviansyah (Photojournalist – Indonesia)

Hanoi is the capital city of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam which covers 927.39 square kilometers and is inhabited by 2.736.400 residents. The city that was built in 1010 during the reign of King Ly Cong Van has now transformed into one of the major cities in the world, a city that never sleeps.

The 2010 ASEAN Youth Camp was held at Hanoi, Vietnam. Young people from ten ASEAN countries and China assembled into one. Introducing every culture they have to be assimilated into one, into a climax performance where every eye creates a photographic result in tune with the current momentum, fascinating dance movements, soft musical melodies, everlasting ceramic creations, and bold lines that are drawn on imaginative canvasses.

Stepping on other people's homeland is, indeed, a new experience and it makes us feel awkward to create something there, to leave a great accomplishment for our beloved country and homeland, Indonesia. In a short period of time we are given the burden to deliver the best result. There are only a few seconds in which we must use our individual experiences to show the quality level of Indonesian people.

Thang Long is the first destination of the photography group's journey. We walked among old buildings made in Chinese and French design. The accompaniment of sound pollution produced by motor vehicles made a harmonious tone, and rows of red trishaws – a traditional vehicle – made an everlasting memory.

Ha Long Bay, which is about 180 kilometers from Hanoi is one of God's masterpiece. The perfect rock cliff setting, the gentle and peaceful waves, the cave with exotic lighting, all of them made a priceless experience for youths involved in ASEAN Youth Camp 2010 in Vietnam.

During those 168 hours, new experiences are made, bringing with it the pride of youth from Vietnam, and I hope we can benefit from that experience and it can be a good story for our friends in Indonesia.
