

**ASEAN-IPR REGIONAL CONFERENCE ON CYBERSECURITY AND THE ROLE OF INFORMATION
TECHNOLOGY IN FOSTERING CULTURE OF PEACE IN ASEAN**

Terms of Reference (TOR)

ASEAN-IPR Cybersecurity Youth Essay Competition

1. Background

The ASEAN-IPR Cybersecurity Youth Essay Competition aims to engage the youth from ASEAN Member States and Timor-Leste by encouraging them to explore unique perspectives on cybersecurity through the lens of human security. With the growing importance of cybersecurity in peacebuilding and human security, this competition seeks to raise awareness and stimulate discourse among young minds about how technology impacts security, trust, and stability in the region.

The selected winners will have the opportunity to attend the ASEAN-IPR Regional Conference on Cybersecurity and the Role of Information Technology in Fostering a Culture of Peace in ASEAN, held from 24-26 February 2025 in Bangkok, Thailand. This conference will provide youth participants a platform to present their ideas and engage with experts from the fields of peacebuilding, IT, and cybersecurity. The competition aligns with the broader objectives of the conference to integrate cybersecurity into peacebuilding frameworks and highlight the importance of a human-centered approach to cyber issues.

2. Objectives

- Provide a platform for youth to contribute to regional discussions on cybersecurity and peacebuilding.
- To foster critical thinking about the role of technology in peacebuilding and conflict prevention.
- Ensure diverse representation of youth voices from across the ASEAN region.

3. Essay Theme

Cybersecurity and Human Security in ASEAN: Youth Perspectives

Participants are invited to explore how cybersecurity measures can both protect individuals and communities and foster peace across the region. Essays should address one of the following sub-themes and demonstrate a clear understanding of the human security dimensions of cybersecurity:

- **The Impact of Cyber Threats on Human Security.**
- **The Role of Technology in Promoting Peace and Trust.**
- **Balancing Privacy, Security, And Human Rights in Cyberspace.**
- **Youth Engagement in Addressing Online Radicalisation and Political Polarisation.**
- **Combatting Online Gender-Based Violence: Ensuring Safe Digital Spaces for All**

4. Eligibility and Participation Criteria

- Open to youth aged **21-35**, who possess the *nationalities* of and are *residing* in **10 ASEAN Member States and Timor-Leste**.
- Participants must submit **original, unpublished essays**.
- Each participant may submit only **one entry**.
- The essay must be written in **English**, with a length of **1,500 - 2,500 words**.
- Participants must be eligible to travel to Bangkok, Thailand, from 23rd to 27th February 2025.
- Participants must have at least 6 months remaining time of passport validity dated back from 23rd of February 2025.

5. Essay Formatting Guidelines

- **Font:** Arial
- **Font Size:** 12-point for the main text, 10-point for footnotes or captions
- **Line Spacing:** 1.5 lines
- **Margins:** 1 inch (2.54 cm) on all sides
- **Alignment:** Justified
- **Paragraph Style:** Indent the first line of each paragraph by 0.5 inches (1.27 cm)

- **Page Numbers:** Bottom right corner
- **Title Page:**
 - Title of the essay (bold, 14-point)
 - Author's full name
 - Affiliation (country)
 - Email address
 - Date of birth and contact details
- **File Format:** PDF and Microsoft Word.
- **Figures and Tables:** Numbered sequentially, with captions (below for figures, above for tables)
- **Citations and References:** APA (7th edition) or Chicago referencing style. (The use of APA referencing style allows 10% additional word count).
- **Abstract (optional but recommended):** Max 250 words, summarising the essay's main points
Keywords: 3-5 keywords relevant to the essay topic
- **Essay Word Count:** 1,500 - 2,500 words (excluding the title page, abstract, references, tables, and figures)

6. General Essay Requirements

- The essay should provide a well-reasoned and evidence-based argument.
- The essay should offer concrete and actionable policy recommendations for enhancing cybersecurity and peacebuilding in ASEAN.
- The essay must not target or attack any specific country or individual (race, sex, ethnicity, religion). Any content deemed to violate this guideline will result in disqualification.
- The use of language must be clear and coherent without grammar and spelling mistakes
- The essay must contain original ideas and references to the ideas. Opinions or theories of others should be acknowledged/referenced appropriately.

7. Evaluation Criteria

Essays will be evaluated by a panel of experts based on the following criteria:

- Relevance to the theme (30%)
- Originality (25%)
- Quality of analysis and critical thinking (25%)
- Structure, coherence, and clarity (10%)
- Grammar and language use (10%)

8. Anti-Plagiarism Policy and AI Detection

- ASEAN-IPR will conduct thorough plagiarism checks on all submitted essays.
- AI-generated content detection tools will be employed to ensure that essays are not produced using artificial intelligence tools such as ChatGPT or Gemini.
- Any submission found to violate this policy will result in immediate disqualification.

9. Intellectual Property and Use of Essays

- By submitting an essay, participants grant ASEAN-IPR the right to publish, distribute, and promote their essays in print or online, with appropriate credit given to the authors.
- Authors retain ownership of their work.
- Submission to other competitions and/or publications at any time during the period that the essays are being considered is not allowed. Essays will be automatically ineligible if they are under contract to any publisher or are in any other way liable to be made public.

10. Data Privacy and Protection

All personal data collected will be handled in accordance with ASEAN-IPR's data privacy policy and used solely for the purpose of this competition.

11. Disqualification and Appeal Process

Any submission that fails to meet the eligibility criteria or essay guidelines will be disqualified.

12. Submission Procedure

- Essays should be submitted to the designated link in PDF and Microsoft Word format.
- **Submission must be conducted through the following link:** <https://bit.ly/ASEAN-IPR-Cybersecurity-Essay>
- The file name should be: "Essay Submission - [Your Name] – [Essay Title]"
- Following the shortlisting process, ASEAN-IPR may request the author's *Curriculum Vitae* for administration purposes.

13. Prize

- One winner will be selected from each ASEAN Member State and Timor-Leste.
- Round-trip airfare to Bangkok, Thailand.
- Accommodation, Visa fee, and transportation during the ASEAN-IPR Regional Conference (24-26 February 2025).

Note: Prizes are non-transferable, cannot be delegated or represented by another person, and cannot be exchanged for cash.

- Certificate of Participation from ASEAN-IPR.
- The top three winners will have the opportunity to present a summary of their essays during the Awarding Session of the Conference.

14. Selection Process

- A panel of experts from ASEAN-IPR will review and evaluate the essays.
- The judging panel will consist of experts from ASEAN-IPR and selected external professionals with expertise in cybersecurity, peacebuilding, or youth engagement to ensure impartiality and comprehensive evaluation
- Participants whose essays are selected for awards will be notified via email. The names of the winners will be announced on **Monday, 13 January 2025**, via ASEAN-IPR's official social media channels.
- Please note that all decisions made by the Panel of Experts are final and undisputable.

15. Inquiries

All inquiries regarding the competition should be directed to online.forum@asean-aipr.org cc to admin.assistant@asean-aipr.org

16. Timeline

Competition launch	: Monday, 28 October 2024
Submission deadline	: Friday, 22 November 2024, 17:00 GMT+7
Judging period	: Monday, 25 November 2024 – Friday, 10 January 2025
Announcement of winners	: Monday, 13 January 2025
Conference participation	: 24-26 February 2025