



CITY OF LA PALMA

NEWS RELEASE

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La Palma Hosts Members of the Young Southeast Asian Leaders Initiative

LA PALMA, Calif. – The City of La Palma hosted members of the Young Southeast Asian Leaders Initiative (YSEALI) Professional Fellows Program on Thursday, November 8, at the La Palma Civic Center. The Fellows, who are bright, young leaders making a difference in their communities, countries, and region, learned about La Palma, including its history, facilities, businesses, and housing as well as its council-manager form of government and organizational structure.

The YSEALI Professional Fellows Program provides emerging leaders ages 25-35 from Southeast Asia the opportunity to spend five weeks in the United States, including four weeks working directly with American counterparts, in individually tailored work placements with relevant private and/or public sector organizations. During these placements, Fellows build their practical expertise, leadership skills, and professional networks and are offered exchange opportunities in civic engagement; economic empowerment; governance and society; and sustainable development and the environment.



Left to right: Nattawut Kasem (Thailand), Stephanie Lim (Singapore), Julia Iksarana (Indonesia), and Van Cung Lian (Myanmar)

About the YSEALI Fellows

Nattawut Kasem (Thailand) is a campaign assistant at the Environmental Justice Foundation, which works to secure a world where natural habitats and environments can sustain, and be sustained by, the communities that depend upon them for their basic needs and livelihoods. Nat's project focuses on human trafficking issues and plans to expand on his work, which analyzes and tracks human rights abuses in Thailand's seafood sector.

Stephanie Lim (Singapore) is the founder and lead coordinator of a nonprofit called Food Action and Research Alliance where she helps build policy frameworks to prevent obesity, non-communicable diseases, and cancers related to food. Stephanie wants to collaborate with urban and residential planning departments, food distributors, and other food companies to increase the quality and variety of foods available.

Julia Iksarana (Indonesia) is a researcher with a non-governmental organization called Cakra Wikara Indonesia, which enables researchers to pursue socio-political studies with a gender perspective to produce shared knowledge and encourage community empowerment. Julia wants to enhance women's leadership and citizen participation outside of formal political institutions by creating access to forums for socio-political discourse and elevating alternative platforms to benefit women in a broader sense beyond political empowerment.

Van Cung Lian (Myanmar) is the executive director of Chinbridge Institute, which aims to build a brighter future through promoting education and research. Van is also working on a project that involves government transparency, specifically analyze acts of political bribery and attitudes toward corruption as well as lead an annual anti-corruption research council in the Chin State in Myanmar.

About the City of La Palma

Ranked by Money Magazine in 2007, 2011, 2013, and 2015 as one of America's Best Places to Live, the City of La Palma is a 1.9 square mile general law city in northwest Orange County, consisting of 15,568 residents and approximately 300 commercial and industrial businesses. The City was incorporated in 1955 under the name of Dairyland and has 55 full-time and 35 part-time employees.

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