

**ANALYSIS OF THE U.S. GOVERNMENT FOREIGN POLICY TO ESTABLISH THE
YOUNG SOUTHEAST ASEAN LEADER INITIATIVE (YSEALI) PROGRAM IN
TIMOR-LESTE (Case study focus on civic engagement in Southeast ASEAN includes
Timor-Leste)**

Author: ELVIS MARIA DA COSTA BELO, ID 17.03.01.156 elvis.belo987@gmail.com;

Co-author: João Francisco Maia, Lic.CSH.,MDS jfmaia89.nus@gmail.com

Department of International Relations
Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities

Univiersidade da Paz

2021

Rua: Osindo I, Manleuana – Dili, Timor-Leste

ABSTRACT

This study is aimed to analyze the U.S. Foreign Policy to Establish the Young Southeast Asian Leaders Initiative (YSEALI) Program in Timor-Leste with case study on the Youth in the Southeast Asian in Civic Engagement. The United State of America is one of the important countries that play a crucial role in Timor-Leste. For many years, the U.S. has supported and contributed to Timor-Leste after its Independence Day on May 20, 2002. The U.S. government's contributions to the Timorese people through education and particularly exchange programs for young people to have a lifetime of experience in ASEAN countries and as well as in the United States. The literatures are included International Cooperation theory, Diplomacy, Government theory, National Interest and Foreign Policy. Research design used for this study is based on the qualitative descriptive. The study is descriptively explained the phenomenon in accordance with empirical reality. The data analysis technique is using SWOT analysis.

The result of this research showed that the beneficiaries of the program get positive impacts in their lives and build connections with emerging young leaders in Southeast Asian countries and also in the U.S. to solve and address the issues related to civic engagement, which include gender equality, discrimination, gender-based violence, sexual harassment, and other issues that are related to people. The weakness faced by Timorese youth is language proficiency and international experiences of the Timorese youth. In conclusion leadership skills are the key leading in a community or country by taking action to handle and solve social issues in a sustainable way.

Keywords: Government, Foreign Policy, Youths, Leadership, and Cooperation.

I. INTRODUCTION

1.1. Background

A major concern that most countries face in the twenty-first century is leadership challenges. Consider that leadership reflects an ability to lead appropriately in the organization, company, or even in a country. Besides, to build trusting relationships with individuals and different people who are different from one another, In the case of International Relations studies, leadership refers to the State Actor who has the ability to lead, make decisions, have intercultural empathy, have an impact on others, and engages in diplomacy. However, leadership is still becoming a global issue in terms of differences in management expectations and practices between cultures, which are not always clear. Language, geographical and cultural barriers make communication, motivation and management difficult, and monitoring and tracking represent significant distance challenges.

Thus, effective communication is difficult in the world of leadership, because commitment is needed. A leader must prioritize effective communication, and it must be disciplined, consistent, clear, and ready to maintain the message that they have been promised. By implementing a structured communication system which connects all of the fellow state actors at the right level, you can greatly enhance your efficiency as a leader and lead to faster top and bottom growth. One aspect in which successful global leaders can help is to become aware and adjust their behavior while participating in cross-cultural interactions: welcome someone, establish a relationship, lead a team; conduct a meeting or attend a meeting, provide instructions, guidance, coaching or teaching; resolve disputes and conflicts; negotiate; encourage people and others.

Moreover, according the United Nation in the article Leadership for Result argues that, Leadership can be defined as the capacity to inspire others to action. Leadership, defined not as a noun but as a verb, is speaking and listening in a way that enables individuals participating in the conversation to act to create future life conditions that were not predictable at the start of the conversation. Leadership in this sense is critical for the development of individuals, organizations and societies (Sharma, 2005).

Reveal to the progress that each countries go through, the United Nation create a 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to achieve better and more sustainable for all. At the current situation, the world is the focusing in Global goals to achieve in 2030. Moreover every nation required a good leader that will transform and develop their countries to benefit for all.

Furthermore, to Ensuring progress for people, planet, prosperity, peace and partnerships and leave no one behind.

In order to achieve these goals, the United State is a one of the development countries that manage to keep its foreign policy in the world through its agency and programs to support some other developing countries in the regions that face challenges including Timor-Leste. There are several programs offered by the U.S, one of which is the implementation of education and culture program that aims to help youths in the ASEAN include Timor-Leste, to become a change maker in their own country. Thus, to keep their foreign influences flow in different country, by implement their local program in order to give benefits in receiving country. Besides, as a super power country the U.S. need to keep their power in any aspect across the country. One of the U.S. Foreign program Called Young Southeast Asian Leaders Initiative (YSEALI).

The YSEALI is the government program of the United States aimed at strengthening leadership development and network development in South-East Asia. YSEALI builds leadership in the region, strengthening the capacity of youth in the United States and South-Eastern Asia and building the ASEAN community through various programs and commitments such as educational and cultural exchanges in the United States, regional exchanges and the funding of seeds. Southeastern Asian Youth focuses on key issues such as civic engagement, sustained development, education and economic growth. For professional fellows and academic the program itself is divided into two parts. The YSEALI is a public diplomacy programmed, aimed at pushing forward regional strategic objectives and breaking down barriers that divide the next generation of Southeast Asian leaders and link them with the United States. To this end YSEALI Fellowship will bring out the professional and leadership skills of exceptionally young leaders from the Southeast Asian include Timor-Leste, to learn and explore the course.

Since Timor-Leste's independence, Good Governance has long been become major issues. While people know various things about good governance, at least the majority of them believe that they can improve the quality of government with good governance. Many of people believe that improving the quality of public service through better good governance practices will reduce the rate of corruption, that the Government will pay more attention to the interest of the community. Thus, it depend on the state actor, to make good governance by using their leadership skills, lead management and others skills.

As a new country, the development becomes a main goal to well prosperity life of people. However, after the long year's occupation of several countries Timor-Leste face many challenges such as Education, health, agriculture, infrastructure transport and communications are the priority sectors that still need to develop in dept. According to the UN Timor-Leste as category of the Least Development Countries, and in 2020 the population estimated at 1.3 million. Majority of the people live in the poverty and unemployment, with that all create many problems which affected to the people and cause underdevelopment in a country, high number of the violence and, health, environment, education, and others. Thus, all the issues related to each other and can occur in the same time, then will lead us to the bad governance and will affect to the foreign influences with the other states. As we all can see the problems that face by some of our state actors, which have a minimum capacity or skills, affect to de nation development. Still, the country still needs to increase earnings and train a more skilled workforce to strengthening the human resources. Timor-Leste's population is 1.3 million, of which about 42% are living in poverty, down from 50% in 2007. Standards of living have improved in the past decade, with the Human Capital Index, or investments in human capital, reaching 0.43% in 2017 (Dooley, June 19, 2018).

Base on the issues stated, one of the main reasons that the bad governance happen is lack of the leadership skills itself. Leadership is a management function which influences, motivates and regulates others in order to complete the planned tasks and aims of the organization or country. Leadership skills will greatly affect the performance of the organization or country in particular in achieving the country goals.

The leadership issues content also happened in the community, organization within our country. Mostly, related to the young person who is in charge to lead and organizing program in the government institution, civil society, and in the youth movements as well. As in education curriculum only teach students how to get good marks during in the school. But, not on the leadership on how the students can take action and manage since the young age. Moreover, to increase this ability the youths must get into extracurricular activities by joining the youths movements, community service, and others.

Furthermore, currently Timor-Leste also starts to make foreign influences in the several countries by established its embassy and the delegation of ambassador nominated by the President of Timor-Leste. Therefore, some of the delegation itself chooses by the political decision-making, without proper education background or experience. With that all, can also cause the low income

return to country more than the outcome for the ambassador. This issue, related to the leadership skills on how to address the issues, to analyzed, do negotiation or lobby. These all also related to all the countries in the ASEAN include Timor-Leste.

Through the U.S. Embassy in Dili, Timor-Leste provides several education programs that very highly recommended to Timorese to apply for the greater education system. The program named Education and Culture that fortunately we can access as the countries in the Southeast Asian. In Timor-Leste, they have a Micro scholarship Program, USTL Program to study English Language for 2 years, Unites State-Timor-Leste (USTL) Scholarship Program to pursue Undergraduate Program and Fulbright Foreign Student Program for the Post-Graduated program. Besides them also learning space called Uma America that is located in UNTL, for Timorese to learn and access all the opportunities and use the resources provided. Last but not least they also have the Young Southeast Asian Leaders Initiative (YSEALI) Program one of the Program to support the Timorese Young in strengthening their ability in Leadership.

Base on the topic that reveal about the issue of Leadership in the world and also in Timor-Leste, encourage the researcher to take this topic to explore more through the YSEALI Program that is give a greatest impact to the youth and their country. Moreover, the program itself really familiar with my previous experiences related to the Leadership and how to solve the problem by not using non-violence.

1.2. Research Question

Base on the issues described in the background, thus the research question is “What are the advantages and disadvantages of U.S. foreign policy to establish the YSEALI and how does it benefits the young Timorese?”

1.3. Research Objectives

The purposes of this research are:

- a) To get to know the importance of the YSEALI Program has a huge impact on the youth in their community to address the issue especially in East Timor
- b) To analyzed the foreign policy between the states in the cooperation or negotiation, through different ways.
- c) To describe the impact of the YSEALI program to the youth of Timor-Leste

II. THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

2.1. The theory of International Cooperation

Cooperation is a form of social process, in which there are certain activities that are shown to achieve common goals by helping each other and understanding each other's activities. In international relations studies, they refer to the cooperation between the states. Cooperation can occur when someone realizes that they have common interests and have sufficient knowledge and awareness to fulfill these interests. In general, the meaning of international cooperation is cooperation involving countries around the world or most countries in the world.

According to **K.J. Holsti**, there are several reasons why countries in the world cooperate with other countries, among others: (a). To improve economic welfare by reducing the costs that the country must bear in producing products needed for its people due to the country's limitations. (b). to increase efficiency related to cost reduction. Moreover, according to **Johnson (2011)** can remove mental barriers due to limited experiences and a narrow perspective, so that it will be possible to find one's strengths and weaknesses, learn to respect others, listen with an open mind, and build mutual consent. Working together in solving problems can make a problem a challenge that must be solved together. Cooperation is something that occurs naturally, groups can progress well if there is good cooperation between fellow group members. The collaboration is not made up, but between group members have a sense of responsibility to achieve common goals. (Hermanmaulana, 2020).

2.2. Theory of Diplomacy

Diplomacy is a foreign policy action undertaken to influence the other government or non-governmental organization by the national actor and/or the non-State actor. Diplomacy is the main foreign policy instrument that represents broader objectives and strategies that guide the interaction between a state and the rest of the world. The results of diplomatic negotiations and processes are normally international treaties, agreements, alliances and other manifestations of foreign policy. Through advising government officials diplomats can also help to shape the foreign policy of a State.

The definition of diplomacy according to the Oxford Dictionary is the management of international relations through negotiation; where this relationship is harmonized and regulated by

the ambassador and representatives; a business or arts diplomat. Moreover, **Ellis Briggs** express that, Diplomacy is an activity or activity of official affairs by sending someone to represent the government. The aim of this diplomacy is to be able to create agreements in policy areas (Ibeng, 2021).

Based on the Vienna convention of 1961, the receiving State may at any time and without having to explain its decision, inform the sending State that its head of mission or a member of its diplomatic staff is a non-grata person or that other members of the mission staff are unacceptable. In such a case, the sending State, as appropriate, shall summon the person or end his functions in the mission. A person may be declared non-free or unacceptable before reaching the territory of the receiving State. Officials of the receiving State may not enter, except with the approval of the head of mission. The receiving country is under a special obligation to take all necessary steps to protect the mission building against intrusion or destruction and to prevent any disturbance of the mission's peace or destruction of its dignity (Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations, 1961).

2.3. Theory of Government

The term government is often used in various lessons or information related to the interests of the people and the interests of the state. Government science is a branch of science from the study of political science. Until now there are still some debates regarding government science and political science. The main study of government leadership is government policy (public policy). In essence, making a government policy is a study of the policy process itself because public policy is a decision making (selecting and assessing existing information to solve problems).

Moreover, according to **C. F. Strong**, government in a broad sense is any activity of public bodies which consists of executive, legislative, and juridical activities in an effort to achieve the goals of a country. C. F. Strong also stated that government is every form of activity of public bodies and only consists of the executive body (Ibrahim, 2020).

The government is an organ that processes the processing of public services and the obligation to obtain civil services for everyone who carries out government relations, so that every member of society who receives it when needed is in accordance with the provisions governed. The essence of the main tasks of government can be summarized into three essential functions, namely: Service, empowerment, and development. Service will produce justice in society, empowerment will promote independence in society and development will create prosperity in society.

2.4. Theory of Human Resources

Human Resource is the key to the development in the organization, companies and nation. Essentially, human resources are people who are employed as movers, thinkers and planners in an organization to achieve the organization's objectives. Human Resources is also a productive individual who works as a driving force for an organization, both in an institution and in a company or in the nation that has a function as an asset so that their abilities must be trained and developed.

Human resources consists many things, but in this case will be Leadership Skills. Leadership is an art that forms strong and tough individuals to motivate a group of people to want to act and work together to achieve common goals. Leadership is filled by leaders who are full of great inspiration, visionary and able to carry out their responsibilities as action directors. A leader is someone who has a strong combination of personality or character, so that it can make other people willing and willing to follow his direction.

2.5. Theory of Leadership

Good leaders develop through a never-ending process of self-study, education, training, and experience. To inspire into higher levels of teamwork, there are certain things you must be, know, and, do. These do not come naturally, but are acquired through continual work and study. Good leaders are continually working and studying to improve their leadership skills; they are not resting on their laurels. Leadership is a process by which a person influences others to accomplish an objective and directs the organization in a way that makes it more cohesive and coherent. Leaders carry out this process by applying their leadership attributes, such as – beliefs, values, ethics, character, knowledge and skills. According to **Gareth Jones and Jennifer George** (2003: 440), leadership is a process by which an individual has an influence on others and inspires, encourages, motivates and directs their activities in order to help achieve group or organizational goals (Kho, 2019).

Moreover, **Great Man Theory** cited in (Kho, 2019) assumes that these leadership traits and leadership talents are carried from the moment the person is born. In addition, the Great Man Theory states that a great leader is destined to be born to be a leader. The theory also assumes that a great leader will appear when faced with certain situations. This theory was popularized by **Thomas Carlyle** in his book entitled "On Heroes, Hero-Worship, and the Heroic in History".

2.6. Theory of Foreign Policy

Foreign policy refers to the relationship between nations, as well as how the government handles cooperation in areas such as trade, education, and health care. The aim of foreign policy is to protect and safeguard the nation's and citizens' interests. The U.S. Foreign Policy into Timor-Leste through the various programs that they have, remained us that the country as a super power and need to keep their foreign influences flow, whether in the education economic, security around the world. According to **Webber and Smith**, foreign policy is a policy consisting of efforts to achieve goals, values, decision-making, and actions taken by the state where the government largely takes part in acting with outside parties or the external environment, in addition to controlling the community in interacting with the external environment. Meanwhile, foreign policy, according to **Kegley and Wittkopf**, is a government policy that has authority over the international environment based on its interests and national goals, and there are values and instruments for achieving those goals.

The benefit of the Foreign policy is to complete each other. Foreign Policy is a strategy or action plan made by state decision makers in dealing with other countries or other international political units, and controlled to achieve. The foreign policy carried out by the government of a country is indeed aimed at achieving the national interest of the people it governs even though the national interests of a nation at that time were determined by who was in power at that time.

III. RESEARCH METHOD

3.1 Types of research

In this scientific work, the researcher used the descriptive qualitative approach. The qualitative approach is a research study that descriptively explains the phenomenon of the research problem in accordance with empirical reality. Observation, interview, documentation, and literature review will be used to conduct this research. The focus of this research is on the US government's collaboration with Timor-Leste to establish the YSEALI program. The descriptive research method is a technique for determining a situation's or thing's description by describing it in as much detail as appropriate based on the available data.

3.2. Place and Key Informer

In this research is conducted in the U.S. Embassy in Dili, Timor-Leste. YSEALI belongs to one of their educational programs, but due to the Global Pandemic of COVID-19, hence the research will be conducted via online platforms such as Virtual by using social media. The stakeholders or the key informer are including:

1. The Coordinator of YSEALI Program in Timor-Leste.
2. Two youth beneficiaries from Timor-Leste

The key informers will be shareable virtually by using social media platforms. Since the Global Pandemic hit all nations.

3.3. Data Analysis Technique

In this part of the data analysis technique, the writer uses descriptive qualitative analysis method. Qualitative analysis is an analysis based on data in the form of writings, statements or opinions which are then identified with categories. The data analysis activities that will be carried out by researchers in this study is SWOT analysis by **Albert Humphrey** from Stanford Research Institute in 1960s and it is a business tool/technique used as a part of a marketing plan and overall business strategy (Priharto,2020). SWOT stand for *Stregnth, Weakness, Opportunities and Threaten*. In the International relation studies SWOT used to analyse if some organization or countries are going to do cooperation or negotiation, and the SWOT analysis deals with the internal strengths and weaknesses, and external opportunities and threats.

IV. FINDING AND DISCUSSION

4.1. Data Processing and Transcription

4.1.1 The importance of Leadership and the YSEALI Program

According to Mrs. Roselia as the Coordinator explained that:

“Leadership is matter because, first let tell a little bit history the reason it matter. YSEALI was founded in 2013 as an initiative by former President Barack Obama while he was still in office. He has several events and forums to participate in across the globe, and he sees Southeast Asia as a huge potential place with color and diversity. Mr. Obama thinks that the solutions to

global issues such as climate change; discrimination, ground zero violence, terrorism attacks, human trafficking, and others are just talk by the top leaders and will not have a big impact on the community. Hence, we need to engage the youths in this entire problem, share ideas, and come up with a sustainable solution in their community and nation. Then he started with an exchange program for youths for academic and professional purposes with three main topics: focusing on economic empowerment, civic engagement, and environmental issues. These are three main global issues that everyone can see in regional and global terms and try to solve. Because the problems don't belong to just one person, but everyone is facing them. And this is the first idea of Mr. Obama and why leadership matters. Because the idea of solving problems and solving global issues like these, requires good leadership skills. Individual skills can't engage people to solve the problem, and we need those who can engage, share, connect, and build network skills in terms of regional and global networking. The main purpose of his idea is to include youths to become agents of change, to connect and build a good partnership with the youth in the region and in the U.S. as well. Furthermore, to learn from each country through the youths during the exchange program” (Interviewed on September 5th, 2021).

4.1.2. The main reason of the U.S. Government to establish the YSEALI Program in Timor-Leste.

Mrs. Roselia said that:

“Firstly, as we know, geographically, Timor-Leste is a part of the Southeast Asia Region, even though it has not officially joined yet. The YSEALI Program is only available to countries in ASEAN, but since 2018, the U.S. Embassy in Dili has requested that Timor-Leste be part of the program. And the YSEALI is an important program in the Southeast Asia region, including Timor-Leste, as the U.S. sees that our region is a strategic place to engage in the issues that have been mentioned, and the U.S. also wants to create a deep relationship with the ASEAN countries and Timor-Leste, mostly engaging with the emerging leaders. The political reason is based on their policy, when the YSEALI was established in 2013 to engage with emerging leaders to solve the problem and learn from each other. On the other hand, as an experience for Timorese people as preparation to become a member of ASEAN, even though they have not officially joined yet, the benefits to Timor-Leste primarily refer to the youth gaining experience in regional countries and the United States. Besides, we can learn from other countries, especially from Southeast Asia's countries. Then, if the opportunity to join ASEAN arises in the future, we will be well

prepared. Annually, the implementing partner of civic engagement tries to develop things under this course. However, the applicants who apply have the most interesting issues concerning domestic violence, discrimination, and gender-based violence. And this is their idea and the majority talks about human rights. But when we break down, the issues will be the previous ones that have been said” (Interviewed on September 05th, 2021).

4.1.3. The recruitment process and the challenges

Mrs. Roselia also claimed that: “During the recruitment of the new candidate, there is a problem. Because, from the beginning of this program until now, the number of applicants has gotten higher than the previous year. And our requirement base is English and leadership skills. There are a huge number of applicants that come with excellent English and good ability. During the process of decision-making, we decide to have a discussion and see more clearly so we can choose the right person. On the other hand, we also see from their background that they have a good financial situation, which leads them to a good education and participation in many activities. Therefore, we categorize them as overqualified. We look for people who have some leadership experience but are eager to learn and focus on the program. Another challenge is time, because it may take time to decide and review the applicant” (Interviewed on September 05th 2021).

4.1.4. The global pandemic has suspended all activities

Moreover, Mrs. Roselia explained that: “Basically during the global pandemic, we had a regional program that only made it through virtually, considering the pandemic and travel allowed. Other challenges are the network's access and the meeting with different social media platforms. It was supposed to be an exchange that happened in person to learn directly, but since the pandemic, we have changed the activities to virtually, and in person will do so when travel is allowed. As a result, up to 60% of YSEALI activities change during the pandemic. Application number is still maintained, but the number of participants has been decreased regarding some issues like network, time zone, and English as well. Lastly, I think this is a challenge that we heard from the participants” (Interviewed on September 5th, 2021).

4.1.5. The disadvantages of the Program

In addition, Mrs. Roselia said that: “Based on personal views, I see no disadvantages, unless our nation comes up with a different system of nation. Because, we adopted democracy and so far we have had the same values. Unless we have a different system of nation, like we don’t believe in human rights, gender equality, or discrimination, then it will be a challenge and threaten us. So, overall, I didn’t see any disadvantages. I saw more opportunities” (Interviewed on September 5th, 2021).

1.1.6. The definition of the YSEALI and the reason to participate in the program

According to Mr. Cancio as one of the alumni share his opinion about the program, that: “The Young Southeast Asia Leadership Initiative (YSEALI) is the US government's signature program for improving leadership skills and networking in Southeast Asia. YSEALI concentrates on issues that really matter to young and mostly everyone concern for, such as: Participation in civic Engagement, Economic empowerment and social entrepreneurship. I really would like to be part of this YSEALI program to share with other young people my experience and abilities relevant to the YSEALI goals, especially concerning gender equality. At the same time, I want to learn from likeminded YSEALI members about their own knowledge and backgrounds in order to bring new experiences that may be relevant to my own social activities in my own country, Timor-Leste (Interview on September 30th).

4.1.7. The Benefits of the Program and action plan

According to Cancio “I expect to learn about the situations and lifestyles of my YSEALI peers in other countries, as well as the challenges they face, and to broaden my experience of working collaboratively to achieve common goals. These interactions will help me to be more creative and innovative in my social participation and activities. Hopefully, I will improve my skills, my teamwork capabilities, and my ability to organize an action plan to put to work in Timor-Leste the relevant knowledge I will get from being part of YSEALI. After came back from the YSEALI meeting in Brunei, I implemented an action plan on sexual harassment prevention at my school at UNTL. The plan included a debate at the UNTL campus, which turned out to be a welcome opportunity to hear directly from young female students about their own experiences and

views on sexual harassment and how to prevent it. The meeting was a rare occasion where victims did speak openly and the plan has encouraged women to feel confident in their abilities and their sentiments on this topic. Participation of both women and men was very strong and the debate became a rare opportunity for students to learn from each other and talk together about how to respect each other in order to change social attitudes which currently belittle women since they are young girls. At UNTL in 2019, there will be some 40 plus active participants. Later, the plan went beyond UNTL as a group of likeminded, mostly female, students and I went on to organize sessions on sexual harassment and teen pregnancy prevention in two secondary schools in Ermera and Maubisse, which were also well received and very well attended” (Interview on September 30th).

4.1.8. Challenges during participated in the Program

He shared that: “The main challenge I faced during the YSEALI program was sleeping late and waking up early. This is because, as my fellow participants usually sleep early, night-time was for me the best opportunity to browse Google, YouTube, and webpages from organizations which promote gender equality, so that I could improve my knowledge and arguments to express my ideas during the following day's YSEALI workshop sessions. I was somewhat sleep deprived but very satisfied with the proceedings” (Interview via online September 30th, 2021).

4.1.9. The reason joined in the program and the benefits: A Perspective from Alumni

Moreover, Inancia Teme is also one of the alumni shared her personal reason to join in the program: “Personally, I want to gain more experience in leadership and knowledge in order to improve my understanding of it. Another reason is to represent Timor-Leste to ASEAN indirectly, since Timor-Leste has not become a part of ASEAN, as well as to learn about ASEAN development closely through the youth. In addition, it is to embrace, give, and find solutions to the different cultures, religions, opinions, and ideas that the representatives of each ASEAN country face, since we almost always have the same issues. From this program, I have more connections through my experience in the programs, such as having better solutions for the environment in order to minimize and tackle issues like throwing rubbish in its place and getting more ideas to create new ideas for activities related to the environment. Also, it is expanding my skills and knowledge of the environment and cultural exchange” (Interviewed on October 6th 2021).

4.1.10. Action Plan after the program.

Since it is still a COVID-19 situation, all I do is share virtually with other youths who are interested in learning through the workshops. In addition, I become a role model to others by setting examples of living environmentally friendly. It is still implemented virtually in Dili through a volunteer group called Environmental Activities - TL. The amount of time is for the short period for the discussion, and it is usually said to be connected virtually, but it seems to not be working out properly since of the different time zones in the region, each of which has different activities that can cause a delay or move slowly for the implantation of an activity (Interviewed on October 6th, 2021).

4.2. Data Analysis and Interpretation

This section of the analysis also serves as a useful opportunity for Timorese citizens to raise the important issues related to civic engagement that still occurs in our nation. Within, share thoughts with the young for positive impacts and, of course, master this topic. Participants will be grouped in a team based on the concerns they chose at the end of the workshop and will apply for YSEALI seed funds. The grants are part of a plan to make a difference in the community by developing a creative, innovative, and long-term solution to the problem. Threats involve anything that has the potential to ruin or harm your organization or country. All of the treats come from outside sources, both directly and indirectly. When countries cooperate, political leaders adopt strategic approaches to negotiate and develop a strong network. As a result, the treaty can be used as a legal basis if something goes wrong during the cooperation. Unless we have a different vision or a different national system, the threat to our country is serious. However, all we can see so far have been more opportunities (From the perspective of the YSEALI Coordinator). Treats are commonly implemented in SWOT analysis, but we must keep in mind the context of the topic being discussed.

The interview revealed that the program has a significant impact on the government of Timor-Leste and the United States. Timor-Leste Bilateral Cooperation has had a significant impact on a young country that has faced numerous challenges. Timor-Leste gained independence on May 20, 2002, and the cooperation began on that date. Over the years, assistance has been

provided and implemented in a variety of ways, including infrastructure, tourism, agriculture, security, financial, and educational efforts. The United States of America, the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs of the United States Department of State (ECA). The American Councils for International Education in Washington, D.C., in partnership with the ECA and the US Embassy in Dili, manages the program.

Regarding the cooperation between two governments, and since the implementation of the YSEALI Program, cooperation or negotiation could occur between governments, government to people and people to people. Because the program activities gathering youths from different countries in ASEAN and in the U.S. A connection and building a network, sharing ideas with mutual benefits for two governments. Where the U.S. and ASEAN youths can learn to each other. Therefore, **Baron and Byane** in the theoretical framework said that Cooperation is actually due to humans who basically cannot live alone without help from others. Thus in living their daily lives humans will be faced with various social problems or dilemmas, this is where cooperation plays a role, namely to help each other in living their lives (Cande K J, 2020).

The applicant's primary concerns in civic engagement are gender equality, gender-based violence, discrimination, sexual harassment, and other issues. This is a really interesting point: young people are still concerned about these issues and want to address them throughout the program, and they want to make differences afterward with their experiences and knowledge to continue engaging in the community and society. And most of the beneficiaries implemented their action plan in community. From 2019 till now, the number of participants in the YSEALI Program has shown a lot of enthusiasm from the youth to participate. Overall, there are 72 participants from Timorese youth that have joined the program, in different courses in the regional total of 38, and in the academic and professional fellowship, 36 (YSEALI Program in Timor-Leste, 2021).

The US government's education and culture initiative aims to assist adolescents in ASEAN countries, including Timor-Leste, in becoming change-makers in their own countries and strengthening their leadership skills. As a result, they establish local programs that provide benefits in the receiving countries in order to maintain their international influence in different countries. Furthermore, as a superpower, the United States must maintain its dominance in all areas of the country.

In addition, the young may take full advantage of a regional opportunity. Despite the fact that Timor-Leste has not yet joined ASEAN, the YSEALI Program formally launched in Timor-

Leste on September 14th, 2019, with the former US ambassador to Timor-Leste, Mrs. Khatleen M. Fitzpatrick, representing various youth movements in Dili. Due to the numerous societal difficulties that our country faces, young are the pillars of change in their communities and nations, and they must take action as a seed of future generations, whether through education, skills, experience, or other ways.

5.1. Conclusion

Leadership is a skill that people have developed through a range of experiences, and academic. The insufficiency of human resources, along with leadership abilities, can be related to other issues and the skills to solve. As a young asset who contributes to a community and nation, it is critical to pay attention to and provide chances for youth to fulfill their individual goals. As a new country, a bilateral cooperation between Timor-Leste and the U.S. has a big impact and opportunity on the government and also directly on the people, with some academic and non-academic programs. Therefore, in the constitution of the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste, article 8th line 1. On matters of international relations, the Democratic Republic of East Timor shall govern itself by the principles of national independence, the right of the peoples to self-determination and independence, the permanent sovereignty of the peoples over their wealth and natural resources, the protection of human rights, the mutual respect for sovereignty, territorial integrity, and equality among States, and the non-interference in the domestic affairs of other States. And YSEALI is one of the programs that aim to connect emerging young leaders in ASEAN countries and in the U.S. and make connections in the present or in the future.

The YSEALI Program gives young Timorese people an opportunity to get experience in addressing the issues, especially in civic engagement, but also as an opportunity to apply to other programs or scholarships. On the other hand, the majorities of the beneficiaries expresses their opinion and feel that the program has changed their lives and made them more open-minded people than before.

5.2. Recommendations:

1. To the official government of Timor-Leste must invest in education, particularly the younger generation, as an asset to the nation. The authorities should also have a look at the school curriculum or activities that not only study but also learn lessons in real life that can

be applied to take action in society. Providing extracurricular activities to all schools and bringing them together for community service and important non-formal education activities.

2. By doing volunteer work, internships, workshops, and other activities that involve sharpening their minds, the youth should participate in any group movement that has a positive impact on society. All the suggestions are part of enriching the skills or ability in leadership for the youth.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

- Arifuddin, M. F. (2019, December 18). *Timor-Leste Asian Membership : To be or not to be ?* Retrieved
- CandeKJ. (2020, July). *Kerjasama dalam ilmu sosiologi* . Retrieved April 27, 2021, from dictio.id: <https://www.dictio.id/t/apa-yang-dimaksud-dengan-kerja-sama-dalam-ilmu-sosiologi/136555/3>
- Dwihyana. (2020 , April 16). *Human resources penting bagi organisasi*. Retrieved May 02, 2021, from brilio.net: <https://www.brilio.net/serius/11-pengertian-sumber-daya-manusia-menurut-para-ahli-200416b.html>
- Epstein, R. A. (2011). Direct Democracy: Government of the People, by the People, and for the People for th. *Faculty Scholarship* , 819.
- Evan, V. (-, - -). *East Timor:Eve Independence* . Retrieved April 02, 2021, from vincebevan.co.uk: <https://www.vincebevan.co.uk/-/galleries/east-timor-eve-of-independence>
- Fulbrook, P. (2019, April 18). *15 Learning Theories in Education (A Complete Summary)*. Retrieved April 19 , 2021, from teacherofsci.com: <https://teacherofsci.com/learning-theories-in-education/>
- Harmony . (2021, February 24). *Analisis SWOT: Pengertian, Fungsi dan Penerapannya*. Retrieved April 26 , 2021, from harmony.co.id: <https://www.harmony.co.id/blog/analisis-swot-pengertian-fungsi-dan-penerapannya>
- Hennida, C. (n.d.). *Diplomasi Publik dalam Politik Luar Negeri*. Retrieved March 29, 2021, from journal.unair.ac.id: https://journal.unair.ac.id/filerPDF/03_Hennida_DIPLOMASI%20PUBLIK.pdf
- Hermanmaulana. (202, July). *Kerja sama dalam ilmu Sosiologi* . Retrieved April 24, 2021, from dictio.id/t: <https://www.dictio.id/t/apa-yang-dimaksud-dengan-kerja-sama-dalam-ilmu-sosiologi/136555/4>
- History, S. o. (2017 , September 21). *Theories on the Origin of Government*. Retrieved April 18, 2021, from medium.com: <https://medium.com/@StudentsHistory/theories-on-the-origin-of-government-2150325b7bfd>
- Ibeng, P. (2021, April 8). *Pengertian Diplomasi, Fungsi, Tujuan dan Ruang Lingkupnya Menurut Para Ahli*. Retrieved April 25, 2021, from pendidikan.co.id: <https://pendidikan.co.id/pengertian-diplomasi-fungsi-tujuan-dan-ruang-lingkupnya-menurut-para-ahli/>
- kesrasetda. (08 Desember 2020, December 08). *PEMUDA "POTENSI, MASALAH, PERAN, DAN HARAPAN UNTUK BANGSA"* . Retrieved April 27, 2021, from

- kesrasetda.bulelengkab.go.id:
<https://kesrasetda.bulelengkab.go.id/informasi/detail/artikel/pemuda-potensi-masalah-peran-dan-harapan-untuk-bangsa-25>
- Kho, B. (2019, August 17). *Pengertian Kepemimpinan dan Teori Kepemimpinan (Leadership)*. Retrieved April 25, 2021, from ilmumanajemenindustri.com:
<https://ilmumanajemenindustri.com/pengertian-kepemimpinan-teori-kepemimpinan-definisi-leadership/>
- Kurniawan , A. (2021, Maret 2). *Analisis – Pengertian, Contoh, Tahap, Tujuan, Para Ahli*. Retrieved April 24, 2021, from gurupendidikan.co.id:
<https://www.gurupendidikan.co.id/analisis/>
- Lino. (2019, November 25). *7 Pengertian Sumber Daya Manusia Menurut Para Ahli*. Retrieved May 01, 2021, from linovhr.com: <https://www.linovhr.com/sumber-daya-manusia-menurut-para-ahli/>
- Lukman, A. (2016, - -). *Presentasi berjudul: "Memahami Prinsip Kebijakan Luar Negeri*. Retrieved April 25, 2021, from slideplayer.info: <https://slideplayer.info/slide/2687920/>
- Ntion, U. (1961, April 18). *un.org*. Retrieved April 11, 2021, from Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations:
https://legal.un.org/ilc/texts/instruments/english/conventions/9_1_1961.pdf
- PAPERS, C. F. (2019, 11 24). *uir.ac.id*. Retrieved March 29, 2021, from Journal of Diplomacy and International Studies: <https://journal.uir.ac.id/index.php/jdis/index>
- Pd, R. M. (Februari 14, 2021, February 14). *Pengertian Analisis*. Retrieved April 27, 2021, from cryptowi.com: <https://www.cryptowi.com/pengertian-analisis/>
- Priharto , S. (2020, January 28). *Apa itu Analisis SWOT dan Bagaimana Penerapannya Bagi Bisnis Anda?* Retrieved April 25, 2021, from accurate.id: <https://accurate.id/marketing-manajemen/apa-itu-analisis-swot/>
- Putra. (2020, February 02). *PENGERTIAN DATA: Fungsi, Sumber, Jenis Jenis Data dan Contohnya*. Retrieved April 02, 2021, from salamadian.com:
<https://salamadian.com/pengertian-data/>
- Putri, A. S. (2019., 12 18). *Kerja Sama Internasional: Pengertian, Alasan, dan Tujuannya*. Retrieved April 27, 2021, from kompas.com:
<https://www.kompas.com/skola/read/2019/12/18/170000569/kerja-sama-internasional-pengerti>
- Putri, V. K. (2021, 01 18). *4 Teori Terbentuknya Negara*. Retrieved April 21, 2021, from kompas.com: <https://www.kompas.com/skola/read/2021/01/18/140749569/4-teori-terbentuknya-negara?page>
- Raveena, A. Z. (2017, September 01). *Apa yang dimaksud kebijakan luar negeri ?* Retrieved April 25, 2021, from dictio.id: <https://www.dictio.id/t/apa-yang-dimaksud-dengan-kebijakan-luar-negeri-foreign-policy/5593/3>
- R, T. (2018). *What is Leadership?* Retrieved April 24, 2021, from www.economicdiscussion.net:
<https://www.economicdiscussion.net/management/leadership/what-is-leadership/32116>

- Rourke, J. (2002). In J. T. Rourke, *International politics on the world stage* (p. 26). - : - .
- Sam, A. (2020, July 30). *notesread.com*. Retrieved April 24, 2021, from Definition of Analysis According to Experts: <https://notesread.com/definition-analysis-according-experts/>
- Setiawan, S. (1 2020, April 25). *Diplomasi adalah*. Retrieved April 27, 2021, from gurupendidikan.co.id: <https://www.gurupendidikan.co.id/diplomasi/>
- Severino, R. (2008, - -). *google.tl*. Retrieved March 14, 2021, from ASEAN: https://books.google.tl/books?hl=id&lr=&id=YC-xOF_04jQC&oi=fnd&pg=PP6&dq=ASEAN&ots=rt8EhPsym6&sig=jhDqS1Vbd8KdWIZ_IVmheHx7IC8&redir_esc=y#v=onepage&q=ASEAN&f=false
- Sharma, M. (2005). *Leadership for result*. Retrieved May 02, 2021, from TOSHIBA/AppData: <file:///C:/Users/TOSHIBA/AppData/Local/Temp/30.pdf>
- Sheng, Y. K. (2018). *What is Good Governance?* Retrieved April 26, 2021, from unescap.org: <https://www.unescap.org/sites/default/files/good-governance.pdf>
- Suryansyah, A. (2011). *Landasan Pendidikan* . Retrieved April 27, 2021, from idr.uin-antasari.ac.id: <http://idr.uin-antasari.ac.id/6633/1/Buku%20Landasan%20Pendidikan.pdf>
- Tommy. (2029). *Pengertian Pendidikan Menurut Para Ahli, Tujuan, Fungsi, dan Jenis*. Retrieved April 26, 2021, from Pengertian Pendidikan Menurut Para Ahli, Tujuan, Fungsi, dan Jenis: <https://kotakpintar.com/pengertian-pendidikan/>
- Nation, U. (2017). *UN list of least developed countries*. Geneva 10, Switzerland.
- Wicaksono, E. (2014, September 14). *Kepentingan Nasional (National Interest)*. Retrieved 04 25 , 2021, from unair.ac.id: [http://ersadio-wicaksono-fisip14.web.unair.ac.id/artikel_detail-112298-SOH%20101-Kepentingan%20Nasional%20\(National%20Interest\).html](http://ersadio-wicaksono-fisip14.web.unair.ac.id/artikel_detail-112298-SOH%20101-Kepentingan%20Nasional%20(National%20Interest).html)