



ASEAMYS 2026 Summit Summary Report

Australasian and Southeast Asian Muslim Youth Summit
Brisbane Technology Park Convention Centre
6-7 February 2026

Empowering Resilient Youth while Strengthening Unity & Regional
Collaboration in Facing Challenging Times

1. Executive Summary

The Australasian and Southeast Asian Muslim Youth Summit (ASEAMYS 2026) was a two-day regional gathering held in Brisbane, Australia, bringing together over 120 participants from across Australasia, Southeast Asia, and the South Pacific. Attendees represented a broad spectrum of the Muslim youth and leadership ecosystem, including regional and international delegates, community organisations, Muslim students Associations (MSAs), Australian International Islamic College, and invited guests.

The Summit was designed to empower resilient, values-driven Muslim youth while strengthening unity and regional collaboration in the face of contemporary challenges. Through a comprehensive and thoughtfully curated program of keynote addresses, plenary discussions,

country and state reports, and facilitated workshops, ASEAMYS 2026 enabled strategic reflection, leadership development, and meaningful cross-regional exchange.

2. Summit Objectives

- Empower Muslim youth to become confident, civically engaged, and future-ready leaders grounded in Islamic values.
- Strengthen unity and collaboration across Australasia, Southeast Asia, and the Pacific.
- Address key challenges including identity, leadership, mental health, advocacy, spirituality, and social responsibility.
- Reinvigorate ethical leadership and shared responsibility.

3. Attendees and Format

ASEAMYS 2026 was attended by over 120 participants, reflecting a diverse cross-section of Muslim youth leadership and community engagement. The two-day, in-person Summit combined keynote presentations, plenary sessions, breakout workshops, country and state reports, and structured networking opportunities.

4. Program Overview and Delivery

The ASEAMYS 2026 Summit was delivered through a **deliberately structured two-day program** designed to balance intellectual engagement, spiritual grounding, practical skill-building, and collaborative dialogue. The program architecture progressed intentionally from **foundational reflection** to **applied collaboration and commitment**, ensuring participants were not only exposed to ideas, but equipped to translate learning into action.

Day 1 – Foundations and Challenges

The first day of the Summit focused on establishing the **intellectual, spiritual, and strategic foundations** necessary for resilient and values-driven Muslim youth leadership.

The Summit opened formally with Qur'an recitation, a Welcome to Country, and welcoming remarks from senior community leaders, setting a tone of **faith, respect, shared responsibility, and regional unity**. This framing positioned the Summit not merely as an event, but as a collective endeavour rooted in ethical leadership and service.

Morning keynote sessions featured **internationally recognised scholars and thought leaders**, who addressed core themes such as belief, identity, moral agency, and strategic thinking in an increasingly polarised and complex global environment. These sessions challenged participants

to think critically about their roles as Muslims, citizens, and leaders, while remaining grounded in faith and ethical responsibility.

Subsequent plenary sessions deepened this exploration through discussions on **Maqasid-informed thinking, purpose-driven leadership, unity, spiritual discipline, and service**. Together, these sessions reinforced the importance of aligning inner spiritual development with outward leadership and civic engagement.

A central and distinguishing feature of Day One was the **country, state, and territory reporting sessions**, delivered through parallel breakout rooms. Delegates from **Southeast Asia, the South Pacific, and Australian states and territories** shared insights into:

- The lived realities and challenges facing Muslim youth in their respective contexts
- Trends in youth engagement, advocacy, education, and leadership
- Structural, social, and cultural factors influencing youth development
- Opportunities for collaboration, shared learning, and regional solidarity

These sessions enabled participants to appreciate both **shared challenges and contextual differences**, strengthening mutual understanding and reinforcing the value of regional cooperation.

The day concluded with further plenary reflections addressing **truth, courage, emotional resilience, and navigating contemporary social and political pressures**. A closing review and directional session helped consolidate key insights, while the evening Summit dinner provided additional opportunities for **relationship-building, informal dialogue, and cross-regional networking**.

Day 2 – Collaboration and Commitment

Building on the foundations established on Day One, the second day of the Summit shifted decisively toward **application, collaboration, and forward-looking commitment**.

Morning plenary sessions focused on issues directly impacting the lived experiences of Muslim youth, including **emotional wellbeing, advocacy, civic engagement, identity, and resilience**. Speakers drew on lived experience, scholarship, and community leadership to explore how young Muslims can remain confident, engaged, and principled while navigating social pressure, distorted narratives, and public discourse.

The afternoon program centred on a series of **facilitated, topic-focused workshops**, designed to move participants from reflection to practical engagement. These workshops provided structured spaces for dialogue, peer learning, and problem-solving across key areas, including:

- Islamic civilisation, historical awareness, and global context
- Muslim identity, peer and social pressures, and youth-specific challenges
- Islamic leadership, spirituality, and career development
- Mental health and Islamic approaches to wellbeing
- Advocacy, civic participation, and public engagement
- Summit sustainability and pathways for ongoing collaboration

Each workshop was guided by experienced facilitators and panellists, enabling participants to engage deeply with complex issues while contributing their own perspectives and experiences. The workshop format encouraged **active participation, critical thinking, and collaborative learning**, rather than passive consumption of content.

The Summit concluded with **closing reflections, workshop outcome statements, and a formal closing ceremony**, reinforcing shared commitments and outlining a forward perspective. These final sessions emphasised the importance of continuity beyond the Summit, encouraging participants to carry learning into their communities, institutions, and networks.

Program Delivery Assessment

Overall, the program was delivered with **strong coherence, depth, and intentional progression**. The balance between keynote thought leadership, regional reporting, interactive workshops, and networking created a holistic learning environment that addressed **mind, spirit, and practice**. The structure enabled participants to contextualise global ideas within local realities, while also identifying common ground for regional collaboration.

The program design and delivery were consistently reflected in participant feedback, which highlighted high levels of engagement, intellectual challenge, and personal growth. The Summit's format successfully created a space where young participants could **listen, question, reflect, collaborate, and commit**, reinforcing ASEAMYS 2026 as a credible and impactful platform for Muslim youth leadership development.

5. Key Themes Emerging from the Summit

Across both days of ASEAMYS 2026, a number of consistent and interrelated themes emerged from keynote addresses, plenary discussions, workshops, country and state reports, and participant feedback. Collectively, these themes reflect the **intellectual priorities, lived realities, and aspirations of Muslim youth** across Australasia, Southeast Asia, and the wider region.

Leadership Rooted in Faith and Ethics

A central and unifying theme of the Summit was the emphasis on **leadership grounded firmly in Islamic faith, ethics, and moral responsibility**. Speakers and participants repeatedly highlighted that effective leadership begins with inner spiritual grounding, clarity of belief, and ethical integrity, rather than position or authority alone.

Discussions reinforced the importance of aligning **spiritual development with public and civic engagement**, ensuring that leadership is informed by sincerity, humility, compassion, and service. Participants reflected on the role of Qur'an, dhikr, salah, and Prophetic models of leadership as sources of resilience, clarity, and moral direction in increasingly complex social and political environments. This theme resonated strongly across both youth and community feedback, particularly in relation to maintaining conviction without harshness and balancing strength with mercy.

Unity Across Diversity and Regional Solidarity

The Summit consistently underscored the importance of **unity within diversity**, recognising that Muslim youth across the region face both shared challenges and distinct local realities. Country, state, and territory reports highlighted differences in social context, political conditions, and community structures, while simultaneously revealing common pressures related to identity, marginalisation, representation, and generational change.

Participants emphasised the need to move beyond internal divisions by prioritising shared values, mutual respect, and collective responsibility. This included calls to focus on similarities rather than differences, to avoid judgment, and to strengthen cooperation across organisations, communities, and borders. The Summit reinforced the value of **regional collaboration**, positioning unity not as uniformity, but as coordinated action rooted in shared purpose and faith.

Resilience in Challenging Social and Global Contexts

Another prominent theme was the need for **resilience—spiritual, emotional, intellectual, and communal—amid challenging times**. Sessions and workshops addressed the realities facing Muslim youth today, including social polarisation, distorted narratives, internalised Islamophobia, mental health pressures, and uncertainty about identity and belonging.

Participants engaged deeply with discussions on emotional wellbeing, mental health, and the impact of social and political discourse on young Muslims. Importantly, the Summit framed resilience not simply as endurance, but as a proactive and faith-centred response that integrates self-care, community support, spiritual grounding, and informed engagement with society. This theme was particularly evident in workshops addressing mental health, emotional strength, and identity formation, and was strongly reflected in participant feedback.

Critical Thinking, Historical Awareness, and Intellectual Confidence

ASEAMYS 2026 placed strong emphasis on **critical thinking and intellectual engagement**, encouraging participants to situate contemporary challenges within a broader historical, civilisational, and global context. Discussions highlighted the importance of understanding Islamic civilisation, global power dynamics, and historical precedents in order to respond thoughtfully to modern issues such as secularism, capitalism, neo-colonialism, and media representation.

Participants reflected on the need for education that does not separate spiritual knowledge from worldly knowledge, but instead integrates both. This theme reinforced the importance of intellectual confidence—being able to engage critically with ideas, narratives, and systems while remaining rooted in faith. Feedback indicated that this approach resonated strongly with youth participants, particularly students, who valued the opportunity to engage with complex ideas in a rigorous and respectful environment.

From Dialogue to Action and Civic Engagement

A consistent message throughout the Summit was the importance of moving **from theory and dialogue to the application of knowledge into practical action**. While the Summit provided space for reflection and discussion, speakers and participants repeatedly emphasised the responsibility to translate learning into practical outcomes within communities and society more broadly.

This theme was evident in discussions on advocacy, political literacy, ethical economic participation, media engagement, and community service. Participants were encouraged to be confident, informed, and constructive contributors to public life, while maintaining their Islamic

identity and values. Workshops on advocacy, leadership, and sustainability reinforced the idea that meaningful change requires both principled intent and strategic, coordinated action.

Youth as Capable Contributors and Leaders

Finally, the Summit reinforced a strong and affirming view of **youth as capable, thoughtful, and essential contributors to the future of the Ummah**. Feedback from AIIC and community organisations highlighted the confidence, maturity, and depth demonstrated by young participants, including high-school-aged students, in engaging with complex and sensitive issues.

Rather than positioning youth as passive recipients of guidance, ASEAMYS 2026 treated them as active participants in shaping conversations about leadership, ethics, and responsibility. This theme was reflected in the design of the program itself—through interactive workshops, open dialogue, and opportunities for youth voices to be heard and respected.

Summary of Key Themes

Taken together, these themes demonstrate that ASEAMYS 2026 functioned as more than a conference. It served as a **strategic and formative platform** that integrated faith, intellect, and action—reinforcing unity, resilience, and responsibility among Muslim youth across the region.

6. Outcomes and Next Steps

The Summit strengthened regional relationships, increased shared understanding of challenges, and renewed commitment to principled leadership. Next steps include consolidating insights, maintaining dialogue, and progressing collaborative initiatives.

The Summit closure also resulted in the election of the ASEAMYS Youth Steering Council (AYSC), an independent organization setup to continue sustainably insha'Allah and to ensure that this event will progress to be held in turn in different regional countries into the future. The Steering Committee will be tasked to not only manage future Summits but also explore outcomes that arise and how these may be put into action, either locally or regionally.

In addition, the ASEAMYS Advisory Council was also formed to help provide advice, guidance and support as required by the Steering Committee. The Advisory Council is made up of select individuals from the various groups and speakers represented in this inaugural Summit, who are able to extend their time, support and experience as required.

7. Participant Feedback and Educational Impact

Participant feedback and observations from the Summit highlighted the **depth, quality, and formative impact** of ASEAMYS 2026 on young attendees, particularly in relation to leadership development, intellectual engagement, and values-driven civic awareness.

Feedback from the **Australian International Islamic College (AIIC)** underscored the Summit's role as a **landmark educational experience** rather than a passive conference. AIIC students engaged directly with internationally recognised scholars, thought leaders, and practitioners, actively participating in dialogue through thoughtful questioning, discussion, and exchange of ideas. These interactions centred on critical issues shaping the future of Muslim leadership, including identity, ethics, civic engagement, advocacy, and responsibility in contemporary society.

Notably, AIIC representatives observed that students demonstrated a high level of **confidence, composure, and intellectual maturity** throughout the Summit. Participants were able to engage respectfully and substantively with complex ideas, network with purpose, and represent their school and broader community with distinction. This feedback reinforced the value of the Summit as an extension of education beyond the classroom—providing real-world exposure to scholarship, leadership discourse, and regional perspectives that contribute directly to the development of critical thinking, responsible leadership, and service-oriented mindsets.

Complementing this perspective, feedback from the **Islamic Society of Algester (ISOA)** highlighted the Summit's broader **community and youth empowerment impact**. ISOA, which sponsored young representatives to attend, described ASEAMYS 2026 as a rare and inspiring opportunity for youth to engage meaningfully with knowledgeable speakers and collaborate with peers through structured workshops and facilitated discussions.

ISOA feedback placed particular emphasis on the significance of seeing **youth, including high-school-aged participants**, confidently articulate and engage with complex and often challenging topics. These included secularism, capitalism, neo-colonialism, social fragmentation, internalised Islamophobia, fear of the unknown, and the influence of mainstream media. Importantly, participants noted that the Summit did not focus solely on diagnosing problems, but also prioritised **faith-centred, practical responses and solutions**.

Key educational takeaways highlighted in feedback included:

- The importance of being **firmly rooted in faith** as the foundation for resilience, purpose, and success
- Strengthening **unity within the Ummah**, beginning with self-reflection, humility, and prioritising shared values over division

- Supporting Muslim communities through **ethical economic participation** and community-based initiatives
- Revitalising **holistic Islamic education** that integrates spiritual depth with worldly knowledge and professional excellence
- Encouraging **Muslim voices, platforms, and media engagement**
- Developing historical awareness of Islamic civilisation and global context to inform contemporary challenges
- Maintaining a confident Muslim identity while engaging constructively in **public, civic, and political life**

Participants also reflected positively on the practical wisdom shared by speakers, including guidance on community engagement, spiritual grounding through Qur'an, dhikr, and salah, political literacy, Prophetic leadership that balances strength with compassion, and ethical approaches to wealth creation and service.

Collectively, this feedback affirms ASEAMYS 2026 as a **high-impact educational and leadership-forming experience**, equipping young Muslims with intellectual clarity, spiritual grounding, and the confidence to translate values into meaningful action within their communities and beyond.

7.1 Summit Participant Survey – Snapshot (Verbatim Participant Feedback)

The following summary is derived from post-Summit participant survey responses. Selected comments are quoted verbatim to reflect participant voice.

Snapshot of responses

- Total survey responses: 18
- Overall satisfaction (1–5): average 4.3/5
- Positive satisfaction (4–5): 15 of 18 (83%)
- Rated '5': 8 of 18 (44%)
- Would attend again: YES 12 (67%), MAY BE 6 (33%), NO 0 (0%)

Rated aspects (average score)

- Speakers/presenters: 4.7/5 (most common: Excellent)
- Networking opportunities: 4.7/5 (most common: Excellent)
- Content and topics: 4.6/5 (most common: Excellent)
- Event organization: 4.4/5 (most common: Excellent)

- Venue and facilities: 4.4/5 (most common: Good)

Program pacing

- DAY 1 pacing: Just Right/Balanced 8, Too Heavy 7, Too Slow 3
- DAY 2 pacing: Just Right/Balanced 16, Too Heavy 1, Too Slow 1

Most-mentioned improvement themes

- More youth engagement & activities (mentioned 14 times)
- Time management & pacing (mentioned 9 times)
- Broader representation / international reach (mentioned 7 times)
- Food & catering (mentioned 6 times)
- More Q&A / fewer speakers (mentioned 4 times)
- Content quality & sensitivity (mentioned 2 times)
- Technical / accessibility (mentioned 2 times)

Selected verbatim participant comments

- “Speakers and workshops”
- “Networking honestly, meeting with new people, exchanging information and connecting with shared interests.”
- “Food was really nice, breakout sessions were phenomenal”
- “More youth should attend a youth event...”
- “Less speakers and more time for questions and answers.”
- “Controversial Statements”
- “Larger range of guests worldwide. And more practical activities.”
- “Inshallah this great work continues.”
- “The opportunity to speak”
- “Socialising with people I’ve never seen before”

8. Overall Assessment

ASEAMYS 2026 successfully delivered a **high-quality, well-structured, and purpose-driven Summit** that balanced intellectual depth, spiritual grounding, and practical engagement. The breadth of the program, the calibre of speakers, and the diversity of participants reinforced the Summit’s position as a **landmark regional convening** for Muslim youth leadership across Australasia, Southeast Asia, and the Pacific.

The Summit effectively achieved its stated objectives by creating a space for **strategic reflection, honest dialogue, and collaborative learning** across borders and generations. The integration of keynote sessions, plenary discussions, country and state reports, and facilitated workshops

enabled participants to move from shared understanding of challenges toward constructive, values-based responses and future-focused commitments.

The scale and diversity of attendance—spanning students, youth leaders, educators, community organisations, and regional and international delegates—contributed to a rich exchange of perspectives and strengthened cross-regional relationships. This diversity enhanced the relevance of discussions and reinforced the importance of unity, cooperation, and collective responsibility in addressing shared challenges.

Importantly, the Summit demonstrated clear impact beyond the event itself. Participant feedback highlighted tangible growth in confidence, leadership capability, critical thinking, and civic awareness among attendees. The Summit fostered a renewed sense of purpose and responsibility, particularly among young participants, to engage more actively and constructively within their communities and societies.

Overall, ASEAMYS 2026 provided a **strong foundation for sustained collaboration, leadership development, and future initiatives**. It affirmed the value of investing in youth-led dialogue that is grounded in faith, informed by scholarship, and oriented toward ethical leadership and service. The many positive outcomes of the summit position ASEAMYS as a credible and impactful platform for ongoing regional engagement between Muslim youth and the continued nurturing of a confident, connected and values-driven generation of future Muslim leaders. Advantage should be taken to lift this platform to its next level for a bigger and better future Summit and potential for a lasting Muslim youth leadership institution regionwide.

9. Acknowledgements

We extend sincere appreciation to our main organisational partners: the Australian Federation of Islamic Councils (AFIC), the Islamic Council of Queensland (ICQ), and the Regional Islamic Da'wah Council of Southeast Asia and the Pacific (RISEAP), under the leadership of AFIC President and RISEAP Vice-President, Dr Rateb Jneid, and ICQ President, Abdul Aziz Khan.

We also gratefully acknowledge the support of our sponsors: Human Appeal International, Australian International Islamic College (AIIC), International Institute of Advanced Islamic Studies (IAIS) Malaysia, AMUST, RWI Spray Painting, Empire Builders, and Western Suburbs Mechanical.

APPENDIX A - Workshop Summary

Consolidated Workshop Report with Full Problem–Solution Alignment

Purpose and Context

This section consolidates and synthesises the key discussions, challenges, and proposed solutions captured across multiple workshop flipcharts. The focus is on youth engagement, leadership, identity, governance, advocacy, and sustainability within Muslim communities, with a strong emphasis on practical implementation and long-term impact.

From Problems to Actions – Executive Summary

This one-page executive summary translates the key problems identified during the workshops into clear, practical actions required to achieve sustainable, values-driven impact.

Key Problems Identified

- Governance gaps, unclear accountability, and leadership bottlenecks.
- Youth disengagement, burnout, and limited access beyond mosques.
- Identity confusion, spiritual disconnect, and imbalance between faith and daily life.
- Islamophobia driven by media narratives, fear, and systemic discrimination.
- Fragmented, reactive advocacy with limited protection and outcomes.

Actions and Solutions

- Establish ground-up governance rooted in the Ummah and institutionalise youth leadership and mentorship.
- Create low-barrier youth pathways through mentoring, volunteering, and pilot programs.
- Rebuild identity through correct knowledge, consistency, and faith-centred purpose.
- Address Islamophobia proactively through education, confidence, and self-accountability.
- Shift advocacy from reaction to protection, sustainability, and institution-building.

Sustainability Enablers

- Youth-led initiatives supported by elders and institutions.
- Clear ownership, delegation, and continuity planning.
- Small, scalable regional models with measurable impact.

Detailed Problem–Solution Insights (Workshop Capture)

This section directly reflects the workshop flipcharts and preserves the specificity, language, and Islamic framing of participant discussions.

1. Leadership, Governance, and Structure

Problems:

- Over-reliance on Imams as sole leaders and role models.
- Weak governance, unclear decision-making, and organisational bottlenecks.
- Limited youth and women participation in leadership and councils.

Solutions:

- Ground-up leadership models rather than top-down control.
- Institutionalise youth leadership, mentorship, and succession.
- Accept failure as part of growth and prioritise urgency.
- Balance ibadah, governance, and everyday life.

2. Youth Engagement and Burnout

Problems:

- Barriers to organising youth at regional, national, and global levels.
- Volunteer burnout and weak support networks.
- Limited youth reach beyond mosque spaces.

Solutions:

- Build support networks via Imams, MSAs, schools, and mentors.
- Pilot programs using a test → improve → expand approach.
- Short, focused intensives (e.g. 5-day programs).
- Meet youth where they are: mosques, social media, and community spaces.

3. Identity, Faith, and Personal Development

Problems:

- Identity confusion driven by trauma, migration, and peer pressure.
- Spiritual disconnection, lack of ikhlas, and weak direction.
- Reliance on motivation rather than consistency.

Solutions:

- Reinforce identity: “You are what you believe”.
- Prioritise consistency over mere motivation.

- Emphasise correct knowledge over cultural assumptions.
- Personal accountability for environment, habits, and companionship.

4. Islamophobia and External Pressures

Problems:

- Media miseducation (terror, migration, extremism narratives).
- Discrimination through visible symbols (beard, prayer spaces, universities).
- Fear of the unknown and systemic exclusion.

Solutions:

- Be proactive, not reactive.
- Educate with truth and self-reflection.
- Maintain confident Muslim identity grounded in values.
- Use challenges as opportunities for healing and progress.

5. Advocacy and Action

Problems:

- Power is not neutral; Muslim voices are marginalised.
- Lack of safe spaces for dialogue and disagreement.
- Advocacy often reactive and symbolic.

Solutions:

- Create safe physical and digital spaces (mosques, halls, rooms).
- Convert advocacy into protection and sustainability.
- Inform and empower youth through masjids and community platforms.
- Move from advocacy to protection to institution-building.

6. Education, Culture, and Civilisation

Problems:

- False divide between secular and Islamic education.
- Paucity of knowledge about Islamic civilisation and intellectual heritage.
- Culture replacing Islam rather than serving it.

Solutions:

- Pursue both Islamic and academic excellence.
- Reclaim the Golden Age of Islam as a reference point.
- Unite around core values while respecting diversity.

Practical Takeaways

1. Form strong, values-aligned teams.
2. Identify and remove bottlenecks early.
3. Start small with steady steps, learn fast, and iterate
4. Accept feedback and course-correct.
5. Build institutions that outlast individuals.

Conclusion

This fully aligned version of the report preserves both the strategic narrative and the detailed workshop capture. It is intended to serve as a complete, implementation-ready record of the workshops

APPENDIX B – Speaker and Delegate List

Speaker, Panelists and Workshop Coordinators
Dr. Anas Altikriti
Professor Dr. Jasser Auda
Professor Dr. Khairudin Aljunied
Professor Dr. Ovamir Anjum
Datuk Prof. Dr. Abdelaziz Berghout
Princess R Lakshman
Rita Jabri-Markwell
Dr. Tawfique Chowdhury
Sheikh Yahya Ibrahim
Sheikh Zohair Abdul Rahman
Dr. Rateb Jneid
Manal Jneid
Ghaith Krayem
Fadhullah Wilmot
Dr. Daud Batchelor
Abdul Aziz Khan
Professor Dr. Shahjahan Khan OAM
Emeritus Professor Dr. Boualem Boashash
Zameer Bhai
Nadia Saeed
Nadima Peer

Refer to: <https://aseamys.org/speaker/>

Delegate	Representative Jurisdiction
Abdul Arsalan Syed	Tasmania, AU
Abdul Lateef Buckley	Papua New Guinea
Abdullah Ahmad Khan	Western Australia, AU
Adinda Arifiah Siregar	Indonesia
Adzhar Jadda Madjid	Philippines
Ahmad Fahmi Mohd Samsudin	Malaysia
Imam Alson Sohel Khan	New Zealand
Maria Rajguru	Queensland, AU
Melak Khaleel	South Australia, AU
Nor Dahir	Queensland, AU
Nurfatimah Chengoh	Thailand
Pradipta Firmananda	Australian Capital Territory, AU
Raed Hayat Iqbal	Victoria, AU
Sahar Naqshband	Tasmania, AU
Shaad Kaashif Akbar	Fifi
Umair Khalid Khan	Singapore

