

## **INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF TRAFFIC AND SAFETY SCIENCES FORUM (IATSS)**

---

The International Association of Traffic and Safety Sciences (IATSS) Forum is a training institute established in 1985 through a personal grant from Soichiro HONDA, and Takeo FUJISAWA, the founders of Honda Motor Co., Ltd., with the aim of nurturing talented young leaders to shoulder Asia's future.

The roots of "forum" as a term meaning "gathering place" in ancient Rome suggest IATSS Forum's role as a gathering place for young professionals from ASEAN and Japan. Inviting talented young people from ASEAN Countries to Japan for a broad range of Group Study, Seminars & Field Study, Study Tours and International Exchange Activities under the common theme, "Thinking and Learning Together," the Forum is a place for participants to develop a greater understanding of their ASEAN neighbours and to address current issues facing ASEAN and Japan.

The programme of IATSS Forum is developed by a diverse group of learned individuals from various fields, who make up the IATSS Forum Program Committee. Top lecturers from academia and industry are invited and the specific issues addressed in each session vary to meet the needs of the times. The focus is not so much on in-depth research in a particular field, but on the liberal arts skills required to become young leaders.

The first IATSS Forum was held in September 1985 with participants from Malaysia. Programmes originally included participants from only a single Country but beginning in 1991 IATSS Forum became an ASEAN Forum, with young people from several nations taking part simultaneously. As of 2010, a total of 47 IATSS Forum has been held so far. About 780 participants have completed programs over the last 24 years. Today, about twenty young people from each ASEAN Country are invited to Suzuka City to participate in this 55-day Forum.

### **KEY HIGHLIGHTS**

The IATSS Forum programme consists of 4 main elements. Each element is designed to maximise the benefits of the 55-day programme by taking into account current regional and world issues.

#### **1. Group Study**

Group Study is an opportunity for participants to write a proposal based on a given topic with group members, practicing the IATSS Forum Motto, "Thinking and Learning Together."

## 2. Seminars and Field Study

Seminars and Field Study cover such topics as society, politics, industrial technology, culture, and international relations. Through these sessions, participants gain a balanced perspective on Japan, Southeast Asia and the world.

## 3. Study Tours

The IATSS Forum provides the opportunities for participants to visit Nara, Kyoto, Tokyo and other cities in order to give them the broadest possible understanding of Japan in the shortest time. Participants gain first-hand knowledge of Japan through these visits, learn about current challenges, and deepen their understanding of the country as a whole.

## 4. International Exchange Activities

Participants get to experience a variety of recreational and cultural activities such as Japanese cultural introduction, homestays and cultural exchanges. These activities are designed to provide each participant with a unique experience.

## SELECTION PROCESS

The 49<sup>th</sup> and 50<sup>th</sup> IATSS Forums will be held in Suzuka, Japan from **April to June 2012** and **September to November 2012** respectively.

All nominees will undergo a selection interview by a panel consisting of representatives from IATSS Forum Japan, IATSS Forum Singapore National Committee, IATSS Forum Singapore Alumni and IATSS Forum Singapore Secretariat. The selection interview is expected to be held in **either November or December 2011**.

Nominees should not be more than 35 years of age and have at least 2 years of full-time professional job experience at the time of application and be eligible for reinstatement to his/her current position after completing the programme.

The return airfare and local expenses (accommodation, food and travel) for the programme will be covered by the organisers.

\*\*\*\*\*