

## **Commitment for Participation and Participant Code of Conduct For the 2017 YSEALI Summit**

Participation in the program is contingent upon acceptance of the following conditions and code of conduct. Please carefully read the information below and return the signed agreement to Cultural Vistas. Be sure to retain a copy for your records.

### **I. Commitment for Participation**

1. Active participation in all program activities (including virtual program activities) is mandatory for the full scheduled periods of each. Non-participation in program activities may result in expulsion from the program. Participants are responsible for obtaining leave from their current employer or institution to participate in the travel portions of the program.
2. Participants are responsible for informing Cultural Vistas staff of any problems experienced during the program. If Cultural Vistas is not informed by the participant of any potential problems or difficulties, Cultural Vistas cannot be held responsible for the early termination of the program on the part of the participant.
3. Participants are expected to act as “cultural ambassadors” of their country while abroad, and to conduct themselves as such for the duration of the program. Participants are obliged to respect and comply with the laws, customs, and etiquette of the host country. Violations of U.S. or Filipino laws, regulations, and policies can result in the expulsion of a participant from the program. Inappropriate behavior or communication by participants that reflect poorly on the program or the United States or any of the participating countries may result in expulsion from the program. This includes spoken or written communication, as well as online communication including but not limited to social media. Alcohol or drug abuse will result in the expulsion of a participant from the program.
4. All participants are obligated to complete the program fully and to take part actively in any and all program sections planned. Premature termination is only possible in special cases (e.g. in the event of a death in the immediate family or serious illness of the participant), and must be coordinated with Cultural Vistas and its partners. In the event of premature termination of the program on the part of the participant or their expulsion by the administering organization for reasons for which the participant can be held accountable, Cultural Vistas and its partners can demand that a portion of the funds expended on a participant’s behalf be reimbursed by the participant. This is also true if the termination takes place before the participant has departed for the host country, or following their return.

### **II. Code of Conduct**

1. The participant takes part in the program at his or her own risk and of his or her own volition. Cultural Vistas and its partner organizations cannot be held liable under U.S. law, the law of the participant’s home country, or the law of the country or countries in which the program takes place for any damage or injury, such as injury to persons or damage to property, suffered or caused by the participant in the course of the program.

2. Cultural Vistas and its partners undertake a variety of activities to adequately prepare its participants for their program abroad, including, but not limited to: information on health and safety issues in the host country, insurance issues, housing and accommodation, visa and residency requirements, political and cultural conditions in the host country, roles and responsibilities of partners and host companies, and select laws specific to the host country. Beyond this preparatory information, a range of issues related to a participant's overseas experience can occur and are beyond the control of Cultural Vistas and its partners. Cultural Vistas and its partner organizations **cannot**:
- Guarantee or assure the safety of the participant or eliminate all risks from the participant's environment while abroad;
  - Prevent the participant from engaging in illegal, dangerous, or unwise activities;
  - Assure that home-country standards of due process apply in overseas legal proceedings or provide or pay for legal representation for a participant;
  - Assume responsibility for the actions of persons not employed or otherwise engaged by Cultural Vistas, for events that are not part of the program, or that are beyond the control of Cultural Vistas and its subcontractors, or for situations that may arise due to the failure of a participant to disclose pertinent information;
  - Bear liability for any financial obligation that the participant may incur due to lack of adequate insurance coverage outside of any program-provided insurance;
  - Assure that home-country cultural values, norms, and laws will apply in the host country.

**I hereby attest that I have read and understood the information listed above, and I accept them as binding for the duration of the program. I acknowledge and accept the limitations to the liability of the administering organization as listed above. I hereby release Cultural Vistas, Inc., its officers, directors, agents, partners, representatives, successors, and assignees from any claims and causes of action, heretofore or hereafter arising, known or unknown, by reason of violence or natural disasters affecting me or my property while participating in this program.**

**I agree that arbitration is the required and exclusive forum for the resolution of any and all disputes between me and Cultural Vistas, Inc., in accordance with the arbitration agreement posted online at <http://culturalvistas.org/legal#arbitration-agreement>.**