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**naaee**  
North American Association  
for Environmental Education



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**Malaysian youth recognized as EE 30 Under 30 Changemaker**

***International grant awarded will facilitate Project Reef Spawn in conducting outreach work on the marine environment***

[Kuala Lumpur, April 5 2021] Quek Yew Aun, co-founder of [Reef Stakes®](#), was selected by The North American Association for Environmental Education (NAAEE) as a 2021 EE 30 Under 30 Changemaker. He will be amongst a cohort of twelve leaders from eight countries who will receive grants, professional development, and a community of support to boost their impact.

The Changemakers Grants program, implemented over 10 months, aims to build the capacity of EE 30 Under 30 as EE leaders through the program's many learning and networking opportunities. This includes by implementing and adapting their individual projects and sharing experience and knowledge by forming a collaborative learning community. Grantees will also have the opportunity to present their work at [NAAEE's 50th international conference](#) in October 2021.

These leaders will implement environmental education projects that build low-carbon economies, create resilient communities, and protect and restore ecosystems. They will address a wide range of sustainability issues, including reconnecting indigenous communities to traditional land-based practices, empowering youth to inform national climate policies, creating inclusive and culturally relevant E-STEM education kits for at-home learning, and much more.

Yew Aun contributes to this network of leaders by carrying out Project Reef Spawn. Working together with five (5) team members, the project aims to produce three (3) awareness videos on the marine environment in Malaysia and conduct a youth capacity development program. The capacity development program will target twelve (12) Malaysian youths between the ages of 18-25 from diverse academic backgrounds and interests.

"Aside from students in marine biology or environmental science, we hope to encourage more youths from a non-science background to apply! The marine environment is threatened today more than ever before so until we get everyone involved, there can be no progress," added participant manager, Natasha Zulaika.

Chow Mei Mei, educational content manager, added that the program will consist of four (4) practitioner-led virtual sessions followed by a three-day, two-night hands-on bootcamp. “We will be involving stakeholders in the public and private sectors, NGOs and local communities in the syllabus to ensure we equip the budding conservationists with the knowledge and skills necessary to contribute to the marine environment.”

Applications to Reef Spawn Program are accepted from 4th to 23<sup>rd</sup> April through [bit.ly/reefspawn-application](https://bit.ly/reefspawn-application). Shortlisted applicants will be contacted by the 25<sup>th</sup> of April (Sunday) for interviews. The 12 successful participants will be announced in the first week of May.

Learn more about all of this year’s grantees through the NAAEE website: <https://naaee.org/news/newsroom/twelve-young-environmental-educators>

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### **About NAAEE**

For five decades, the North American Association for Environmental Education (NAAEE) has served as the professional association, champion, and backbone organization for the field of environmental education (EE), working with EE professionals across United States, Canada, and Mexico, as well as globally, to advance environmental literacy and civic engagement to create a more equitable and sustainable future. For more information on NAAEE, visit <https://naaee.org>.

### **About NAAEE EE 30 Under 30**

Since 2016, NAAEE's EE 30 Under 30 program has recognized 150 individuals from around the world who are making a difference through environmental education. This program is made possible by NAAEE’s Global Environmental Education Partnership (GEEP), the U.S. Forest Service, and Wells Fargo. Since it’s inception, two Malaysians have been recognized under this program. To learn more, visit [naaee.org/ee30under30](https://naaee.org/ee30under30).

### **About Reef Stakes®**

Reef Stakes® is the first marine themed role-playing card game in Malaysia. The game is designed to mimic real-life stakeholder relationships, introduce some of Malaysia’s most iconic marine species and highlight threats to coral reefs. In 2020, the game was announced winner of the 8th International Educational Games Competition (IEGC) in the Non-Digital Finished Games category.