

## The Results of the JapaFunCup International Friendly Football Match between U-18 ASIAN ELEVEN and U-18 Tohoku Selection Team

### *Live Halftime Show Performance by Little Glee Monster*

On Saturday, June 22, 2019, the JapaFunCup International Friendly Football Match between ASIAN ELEVEN, the U-18 Southeast Asia all-star team, and the U-18 Tohoku Selection Team from Japan was held at the J-Village National Training Center in Naraha-machi / Hirono-machi, Fukushima Prefecture. The match ended in a 0-0 draw at the end of regular time, with the ASIAN ELEVEN winning 5-4 in the penalty shoot-out.



ASIA IN RESONANCE  
アキアウアアア 2019

The JapaFunCup was jointly organized by The Japan Foundation Asia Center (JFAC) and the Japan Football Association (JFA), as a part of the “Asia in Resonance 2019” program for cultural exchange between Japan and Southeast Asia.



During the match ©JFA

The ASIAN ELEVEN, a team of U-18 players from 11 Southeast Asian countries, faced off against a team of U-18 players selected from the six prefectures of Japan’s Tohoku region. The J-Village Stadium where the match was held is a symbol of sports and disaster recovery, connecting Japan and the world through sport as the starting point for the Japan leg of the Olympic torch relay for the Tokyo 2020 Olympics and Paralympics, and the training camp for Argentina’s Rugby World Cup team. JFAC has been

promoting football exchanges since 2014 to develop football players between Southeast Asia and Japan, and this event is the culmination of projects to share knowledge and experience across borders.

The JapaFunCup is an opportunity to reflect on the success of mutual exchange through football, conducted by the JFAC over the last five years. By encouraging Japan and Southeast Asia to consider the future of football while pursuing a friendly rivalry, this project aims to be a starting point to further deepen relationships. Following the JapaFunCup in Fukushima, another match for the ASIAN ELEVEN in Southeast Asia is also planned.



The moment of victory ©JFA

The ASIAN ELEVEN team was led by former J.Leaguer Takuma Koga, currently involved with youth development in Southeast Asia, and serving as the manager of the U-15 Myanmar National team. Reflecting on the match, Mr. Koga said “The players selected all have extremely high abilities, and it was a good match. I hope to build experiences like this and strengthen football in Asia overall.” The U-18 Tohoku Selection Team was led by Hiroshi Teguramori, a former football player from Aomori Prefecture who has also served as a special coach for disaster recovery support. He commented, “It’s too bad that we lost, but the level of the Southeast Asian players was higher than we expected. I think it was a good experience. Going forward, I want to help raise the level of football in the Tohoku region.” ASIAN ELEVEN Captain Channarong Promsrikaew (Thailand), reflecting on the match, said “Communicating with athletes from various countries was challenging at first, but football is our common language, so it wasn’t a problem during the game. We were able to really enjoy ourselves.”



The two teams, after the match ©JFA

Inquiries regarding this topic:

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The halftime show featured a short live concert by Little Glee Monster, a Japanese vocal group known for their formidable singing ability. The group excited the crowd with their performance of the ASIAN ELEVEN theme song, "I BELIEVE."

### Little Glee Monster (Vocal Group)

#### Performers of ASIAN ELEVEN Theme Song

**Comment:** "We were extremely happy to perform a live concert during the JapaFunCup, which is the successful result of cultural exchange between Southeast Asia and Japan through sports. Watching athletes our age playing so hard made us feel that chasing your dream is the same in any country. It was really inspirational. We, too, hope that we can bring the world together through song."



### Hiroyasu Ando, The Japan Foundation President

**Comment:** "It is with great pleasure that we were able to host the International Friendly Football Match JapaFunCup at J-Village, where the history of Japanese football is engraved and a symbol of revival from the Great East Japan Earthquake in 2011, and get a glimpse of the future of football in Asia. By holding this event, it was our hope that we could promote long-term mutual exchange with our Asian neighbors through football, which is also very popular in Southeast Asia. Going forward, we plan to continue supporting the young generation in Asia through cultural exchange projects."



### Match Results

ASIAN ELEVEN 0-0, PK 5-4 (0-0, 0-0) U-18 Tohoku Selection Team

Match statistics for each player:

[https://www.jfa.jp/eng/social\\_action\\_programme/JapaFunCup\\_2019/match\\_page.html](https://www.jfa.jp/eng/social_action_programme/JapaFunCup_2019/match_page.html)

### Overview of the JapaFunCup International Friendly Football Match

Date: Saturday, June 22, 2019

Time: Kickoff at 2:00 pm

Venue: J-Village Stadium

Address: 8, Utsukushimori, Yamadaoka, Naraha-machi, Futaba-gun, Fukushima Prefecture

Organizer: The Japan Foundation Asia Center

Co-organizer: Japan Football Association (JFA)

Support: Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan, Reconstruction Agency, Fukushima Prefecture, Japan Professional Football League (J.League)

Special Website: <https://asian-eleven.jfac.jp/en/>

\* Photos of Little Glee Monster performing at the event are available on request.

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### ASIAN ELEVEN Player Roster

Full Name	Nationality	Position	DOB(YMD)	Height/Weight(cm/kg)	Affiliation
Md Aisan Aizuddin Bin Abdullah Md Aiman	Brunei	Left-side back	2002/2/2	169/55	Brunei National Football Academy U-18
He was spotted to have footballing potential at the age of 11 years old. He was selected to join the Brunei Sports School based on his football potential in 2015. A few years later he was selected to participate in Brunei's elite youth football development scheme. He had scored several goals in the 2nd Division of the national league this season. His footballing attributes includes his speed and quick footwork. His sportsmanship and strong commitment are also positive attributes.					
Mohammad Hafiz Bin Suhardi	Brunei	Left-side midfielder	2001/5/10	165/50	Brunei National Football Academy U-19
His footballing potential was identified in 2015 when he was offered a spot in the Brunei Sports School when he was 14 years old. In 2017 he was selected for Brunei's elite youth football development scheme, which he is currently a member of. Not only is he a naturally talented left footer, he also possesses a pleasant personality with strong tact and a good attitude.					
Soeuth Nava	Cambodia	Right-side back	2001/2/13	176/60	Boeung Ket Football Club
He is a good captain of the team and skilled in team control. He can play in right and left-side back. He was selected for the AFF (ASEAN Football Federation) U-16 and U-19 Championship, and for the AFC (Asia Football Confederation) U-16 Championship, which was held in Japan. He played as a defender in Cambodia's second division league, and scored 10 goals in the Hun Sen Cup with the league.					
Ry Leap Pheng	Cambodia	Left-side back	2002/10/16	160/53	U-18 Cambodia National Academy
Small, but has a dominant right foot. He is good on defense and very agile as a side attacker. His technique is very good and has shown outstanding talent since being selected for the U-18 Cambodia National Academy in this position. His stamina and physical fitness let him play full-time. Good for counter attacks on his side and good at assisting front players (crossing, cut back, timing pass). His attitude in the field is disciplined and responsible toward the team. Very passionate in football and has strong commitment with his dream to be a professional player in the future.					
Rizky Ridho Ramadhani	Indonesia	Center-back	2001/11/21	179/70	Persebaya Surabaya FC U-19
He is a tall player with a large frame. Thanks to his height and great balance, he has a very good aerial attack. At the academy pro elite competition, he was the top scorer with 6 goals. He has a vision for building attacks from the back row and was nominated to become a pro player for Persebaya Surabaya FC.					
Ardi Maulana	Indonesia	Attacking midfielder	2001/2/25	170/60	Persib Bandung U-17
He is a good player with a high football intelligence. He is good at reading the game, positioning, managing the rhythm of the game, penetration and making decisions. His talent has grown since he was 14, and in 2018 he was selected as the best player of Indonesia's U-16 Elite Pro Academy. He is a very anticipated player.					
Chony Wenpaserth	Laos	Left-side midfielder	2002/11/27	165/50	Ezra Football Club
A young boy from a village in Vientiane Province who has set his heart on football. Chony left his hometown to join Ezra Football Center, the country's most successful academy, when they conducted trials in his hometown. Later, Chony showed his quality and goal-scoring skill in several youth competitions. He helped the academy lift the Copa Coca-Cola Cup for 2 straight years. His form caught the eyes of Lao U-16 National Team Head Coach who wasted no time in calling Chony up to the team. Since then, Chony has been a goal-scoring hope for the team.					
Songkan Sichanthavong	Laos	Right-side back	2002/4/13	178/57	Young Elephants FC
Songkan is a Vientiane-born footballer who started his career with Vientiane United. A versatile defender who has shown his strength in the defensive third with his outstanding leadership. He earned his armband for the U-14 National Team and carried it to the U-16 age group team. The 178cm-tall skipper has a bright future held for him					
Harith Haikal Bin Adam Afkar	Malaysia	Control midfielder	2002/6/22	175/70	Akademi Bolasepak Negara Mokhtar Dahari
Good technical strength with the ball, and an intelligent player. Strong at central position play, strong in the air, attacking and defending, and good at 1 vs 1 situations. Although he is not quickest, he contributes 100% on the field whole hearted, and has very high commitment.					
Ali Imran Bin Sukari	Malaysia	Center-back	2002/5/30	176/70	Akademi Bolasepak Negara Mokhtar Dahari
Ali has the characteristic of a leader, with very good work ethic on and off the field. He is a disciplined player with fantastic attitude, and contributes 100% on the field whole hearted. Very high commitment as a Center Defender, strong in the air, good at 1 vs 1 situations, and very good technically with his right foot. He has football intelligence with good understanding of the game.					

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Nay Lin Htet	Myanmar	Goalkeeper	2002/4/13	178/68.3	U-18 Myanmar National Team
Born in April 2002, Ny Lin Htet joined the Mandalay Football Academy in 2015. Since then he's been selected for the U-15 Myanmar National Team, the U-16 Myanmar National Team and the U-18 Myanmar National Team as Goalkeeper. He is also currently playing for MFF (Myanmar Football Federation) Youth Team competing in the local U-21 League. He has good goalkeeping skills and is an anticipated player.					
Pyae Phyo Aung	Myanmar	Forward	2002/5/13	170/53.3	U-18 Myanmar National Team
Pyae Phyo Aung was selected by the Mandalay Football Academy in 2015. As a talented player, he's been playing on the MFF Youth Team in the local U-21 League in the current 2019-2020 season. He has also been selected to play on the U-18 Myanmar National Team squad in preparation of the AFF U-18 Championship 2019 in Bangkok, the AFC U-18 Championship 2019 in Bangkok, and also the AFC U-19 Championship 2020 Qualification Round. He is intelligent and very good in dribbling and cross passes.					
Jhon Antonette Gutierrez Betanio	Philippines	Goalkeeper	2001/4/11	188/78	Nazareth School of National University Football Club
He is a tall player which suits his position as a Goalkeeper. He is good in distribution and can help the team's ball transition and possession. He has a big percentage on saving penalty kicks and can save strong-paced shots. He has a strong grip when it comes to anticipating crosses and corners. He is also brave on 1 vs 1 situations and he doesn't mind being hit in his body.					
Samuel Reuben Wilhelm Tatoy Chavez	Philippines	Attacking midfielder	2001/10/19	173/65	Mendiola FC
His characteristics are a good left foot, accurate kicking and receiving. He can also play in MF and DF. He has already experienced an AFF tournament in Indonesia as a member of the National Team U-19 in the Philippines last season. He was also selected as the best 11 in the domestic college league in the Philippines. He is very anticipated in the Philippines.					
Muhammad Farhan Bin Zulkifli	Singapore	Forward	2002/11/10	160/52.5	Hougang United Football Club U-18
Quick and highly skilled. Despite his small build, he always has the confidence to take on defenders. Committed and disciplined on and off the pitch, Farhan has been called up to train with the higher age group in the National Youth set up. A player who has a great potential to have a career in football. *Due to unforeseen circumstances, only one player from Singapore participated.					
Channarong Promsrikaew	Thailand	Attacking midfielder	2001/4/17	171/60	Chonburi FC
He is the youngest player for Chonburi FC. A Team in this season for Thai league. He is a smart player and has an advantage in passing. He is small but has agility. He works hard all the time and makes all-out efforts to every match. He also joins U-17 and U-19 National Team. With his role as playmaker, he makes the team have more chances from his passing, and sometimes scores for himself.					
Natcha Promsomboon	Thailand	Control midfielder	2001/2/8	175/56	Pattana FC
He is good player with an outstanding technique. His advantage is passing and shooting. He can do both short ball and long ball play. When he controls the ball it is very hard for opponents to try to steal from him. He is like a fighter who works hard on the field. For the national team he plays with U-17 and U-19. However, his passing can give the team more chances to score.					
Mouzinho Barreto De Lima	Timor-Leste	Left-side midfielder	2002/6/26	165/60	SLB Laulara
Mouzinho started participating in joint practice of fundamental skills in 2011, showing strong natural skills. Because of his strong performance and acrobatics skills during training, he could join the prestigious SLB club in his early teens. At the same time, he has played for the Timor-Leste national squad from U-12 up to elite junior team until today.					
Gumario A. F. Da Silva Moreira	Timor-Leste	Right-side midfielder	2001/10/18	175/62	Boavista FC
Gumario started participating in joint practice for basic football skills in 2010 and soon his good character, playing style and outstanding natural skills attracted notice. Because of his strong performance and high skill during training, he could join the Boavista club early in his teens. He also plays for the Timor-Leste national team, having progressed from U-12 up to the elite junior team.					
Nguyen Thanh Khoi	Vietnam	Attacking midfielder	2001/11/18	169/66	Hoang Anh Gia Lai FC
In 2013, he entered the HAGL-JMG Academy at the age of 12. After 5 years of training, he finally made his debut in 2018, showcasing his leadership as the captain of U-19 HAGL FC enrolling in U-19 V. League. Due to his impressive performance, he was chosen for the U-18 National Team. Despite being small, he is competent at tackling, interception, reading the game and managing the rhythm of the game. *Due to unforeseen circumstances, only one player from Vietnam participated.					

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Full Name	Prefecture	Position	DOB (YMD)	Height/Weight (cm/kg)	Affiliation
Arata Sugawara	Iwate	Forward	2001/9/17	171/68	Senshu University Kitakami Senior High School
Shun Nozuki	Aomori	Forward	2001/4/29	170/68	Sanbongi Agricultural High School
Daiki Ito	Miyagi	Forward	2001/8/5	185/74	Miyagi Technical High School
Kaito Oikawa	Iwate	Forward	2001/12/2	179/67	Tono High School
Bohto Takahashi	Akita	Midfielder	2001/4/26	175/65	Blaublitz Akita U-18
Sota Uchiyama	Akita	Midfielder	2001/7/18	172/60	Araya High School
Gun Nakano	Aomori	Midfielder	2001/11/6	175/65	Hachinohe Kodai 1 High School
Hyoga Sakai	Fukushima	Midfielder	2001/7/23	165/65	Futaba Future High School
Ryohei Baba	Iwate	Midfielder	2002/1/22	173/62	Tono High School
Takuma Watanabe	Iwate	Midfielder	2002/1/19	170/62	Tono High School
Tatsuma Okubo	Yamagata	Midfielder	2001/9/5	172/65	Yonezawa Chuo High School
Takuma Harata	Akita	Defender	2001/10/22	181/71	Blaublitz Akita U-18
Taiga Sato	Miyagi	Defender	2001/9/6	177/70	Tohoku Gakuin High School
Yohei Otsuki	Miyagi	Defender	2001/12/25	179/75	Shiogama FC U-18
Yusuke Sasaki	Miyagi	Defender	2002/2/6	175/73	Vegalta Sendai U-18
Fumiya Kikuchi	Iwate	Defender	2001/7/8	170/64	Tono High School
Haruki Yoshida	Iwate	Defender	2002/3/9	178/65	Senshu University Kitakami Senior High School
Ryo Takamura	Fukushima	Defender	2001/12/12	170/63	Futaba Future High School
Seina Takahashi	Akita	Defender	2001/4/26	181/72	Blaublitz Akita U-18
Takuma Iura	Fukushima	Goalkeeper	2002/3/10	186/74	Gakuho Ishikawa High School
Yuto Sasaki	Fukushima	Goalkeeper	2001/6/14	178/73	Seiko Gakuin High School

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### **About ASIAN ELEVEN and the JapaFunCup (<https://asian-eleven.ifac.jp/en/>)**

The ASIAN ELEVEN is jointly organized by the JFAC, the JFA and J.League to foster football talents among Japan and Southeast Asian countries, and promote mutual understanding among peoples of these nations through football. The program began in 2014. Since then, the program has dispatched 166 trainers from Japan to the region, where they helped train over 3,000 young Southeast Asian players. This year, to present the results of this exchange program, U-18 players from around Southeast Asia were recruited onto the ASIAN ELEVEN team. On June 22, 2019, they made their debut as a team at the JapaFunCup International Friendly Football Match at the J-Village in Fukushima Prefecture.

### **About Asia in Resonance 2019 (<https://asia2019.ifac.jp/en/>)**

The Japan Foundation Asia Center is holding “Asia in Resonance 2019”, a series of events introducing various cultural exchange programs between Japan and Southeast Asia. The broad range of special events includes cross-border productions of stage performances and films, a special international friendly football match between the “ASIAN ELEVEN” team of selected Southeast Asian players against a team from Japan, and a “NIHONGO Partners” symposium. Please enjoy the resonance created by the strengthened ties between Southeast Asia and Japan. The Asia in Resonance 2019 program is planned to expand to Southeast Asia this year.



### **About the Japan Foundation Asia Center (<https://jfac.jp/en/>)**

The Japan Foundation is Japan's principal independent administrative institution dedicated to carrying out cultural exchange initiatives throughout the world. The Asia Center, established in April 2014, is a division within the Japan Foundation that conducts and supports collaborative initiatives with its Asian—primarily ASEAN—counterparts. Through interacting and working together in Japanese-language education, arts and culture, sports, and grassroots and intellectual exchange, the Asia Center pursues to develop the sense of kinship and coexistence as neighboring inhabitants of Asia.



### **About the Japan Football Association (<http://www.jfa.jp/eng/>)**

The Japan Football Association carries out activities that include the reinforcement of Japan's national teams, organizing play competitions across all age categories, and registering and developing players, coaches and referees as a representative organization integrating the world of Japanese football. The association also puts effort into international exchange and aid programs in Asia. With the goal of giving children a bright future through football, and developing and promoting the sport's popularity in Asia, the Japan Football Association also carries out support activities for the Asian Football Confederation, which currently has 46 member countries.



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