



### Multi-Stakeholder Partnerships

The ASCC continuously consults and partners with a broad range of stakeholders in the government, civil society organisations, multilateral organisations, the private sector, the academe/think tanks and ASEAN Dialogue Partners. Examples of such stakeholders include ASEAN Women Entrepreneurs' Network; ASEAN Plus Three Universal Health Coverage Network; Southeast Asian Ministers of Education Organization (SEAMEO); Climate Change Partnership Conference, ASEAN Information and Media Dialogue, and ASEAN Day for Disaster Management, among others.



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## ASEAN SOCIO-CULTURAL COMMUNITY (ASCC)



one vision  
 one identity  
 one community



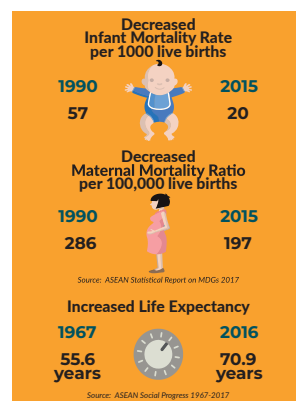
## ASEAN SOCIO-CULTURAL COMMUNITY

The ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community (ASCC) is one of the three pillars of ASEAN Community which envisions a community where people enjoy the benefits of being part of ASEAN. At the heart of ASCC is the commitment to lift the quality of life of its peoples through cooperative activities that are people-oriented, people-centred. The ASCC activities aim to open a world of opportunities to collectively deliver and fully realise human development and gear towards the promotion of sustainable development. The ASCC activities also foster an ASEAN identity through inter-cultural understanding and mutual respect, and prepares the ASEAN community to face new and emerging challenges in the future.

The ASCC regional cooperation covers a wide range of areas such as, Culture and Arts, Information, Education, Health Youth and Sports, Social Welfare and Development, Gender, Women and Children's Rights, Labour, Civil Service, Rural Development and Poverty Eradication, Environment, Disaster Management and Humanitarian Assistance.

Against this intensified regional cooperation backdrop, the region witnessed a dramatic decline in extreme poverty rates among a number of ASEAN Member States. The region is also experiencing an expanding middle class as well as improved health and education. The regional workforce is growing and serves regional and global labour needs while a rapidly rising urban population generates new services, city infrastructure development, and evolving lifestyles.

The region's development agenda affords greater attention to the integration and mainstreaming of sustainable use and conservation of the environment, with increased number of protected areas (44 ASEAN Heritage Parks), strengthened cooperation to tackle marine debris and transboundary haze pollution. ASEAN continues to build a resilient community through a whole-of-society approach and multi-stakeholder cooperation, including national red cross and red crescent societies; civil society organisations; as well as other sectors for effective disaster risk.



The ASCC is institutionalising a culture of prevention to respond comprehensively to the challenges that hamper sustainable social and human development in our region. The ASEAN Declaration on Culture of Prevention (CoP) for a Peaceful, Inclusive, Resilient, Healthy and Harmonious Society, seeks to promote an upstream approach in tackling the root causes of social problems including violence, environmental degradation and quality of life. The CoP represents a crucial crossroad for ASEAN wherein preventive measures will figure prominently in our lexicon and in all aspects of our work.

**CHILDREN AND YOUTH IN ASEAN**

Over 7,000 youth have participated in ASEAN youth programmes since 2015. These programmes enable ASEAN youth to develop leadership skills while forging a regional identity.

ASEAN Member States provide free basic education. Enrollment rates are over 90%. Enrollment in secondary education improved from 70% to 77% between 2011-2015. Youth unemployment in ASEAN has decreased from 21.4% to 12.9% between 2005-2015.

The ASEAN Declaration on Strengthening Education for Out-of-School Children and Youth strengthens education services for 3.6 million children who remain out-of-school in ASEAN.

The prevalence of stunting and wasting in children under 5 remains high in ASEAN. The ASEAN Leaders' Declaration on Ending All Forms of Malnutrition serves to address malnutrition in ASEAN.

## ASCC Blueprint 2025

The ASCC Blueprint 2025 strives for a community that engages and benefits the people, and is inclusive, sustainable, resilient and dynamic.

To achieve this, the ASCC works towards a committed, participative and socially-responsible community for the benefit of ASEAN peoples; an inclusive community that promotes high quality of life, equitable access to opportunities for all and promotes and protects human rights; a sustainable community that promotes social development and environmental protection; a resilient community with enhanced capacity and capability to adapt and respond to social and economic vulnerabilities, disasters, climate change, and other new challenges; and a dynamic and harmonious community that is aware and proud of its identity, culture and heritage.

### Milestones in 2017

The ASCC reached a number of important milestones in 2017 in various sectors.

These are, among others:

- ASEAN Consensus on the Protection and Promotion of the Rights of Migrant Workers
- ASEAN Declaration on 'Culture of Prevention' for a Peaceful, Inclusive, Resilient, Healthy, and Harmonious Society
- ASEAN Declaration on the Adoption of the ASEAN Youth Development Index
- ASEAN Declaration on the Gender-Responsive Implementation of the ASEAN Community Vision 2025 and Sustainable Development Goals
- ASEAN Declaration on the Role of Civil Service as a Catalyst for Achieving the ASEAN Community Vision 2025
- ASEAN Leaders' Declaration on Disaster Health Management
- Report on the First ASEAN Youth Development Index (YDI)
- ASEAN Joint Statement on Climate Change to the Twenty-Third Session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework and Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC COP-23)
- Ratification of the Establishment Agreement of the ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity
- 4<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Environmentally Sustainable City (ESC) Awards
- ASEAN Science-Based on Disaster Management Platform (ASDMP)
- Work Plan for Strengthening Institutional and Policy Framework on Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) and Climate Change Adaptation (CCA)
- ASEAN Disaster Law Mapping: Regional Stocktake in implementing AADMER
- Framework on ASEAN Standardization and Certification for Experts in Disaster Management (ASCEND)
- ASEAN-Republic of Korea (ROK) Cultural Exchange Year 2017

