

The Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) was established on 8 August 1967. The Member States are Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Viet Nam. The ASEAN Secretariat is based in Jakarta, Indonesia.

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ASEAN COMMUNITY

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one vision
 one identity
 one community

HISTORY

The Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) was founded on 8 August 1967 in Bangkok with the signing of the ASEAN Declaration by Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore and Thailand. The ASEAN Declaration committed the signatory States to cooperate for the purpose of economic growth, social progress, cultural development, and regional peace and stability.

Brunei Darussalam joined ASEAN on 7 January 1984, Viet Nam on 28 July 1995, Lao PDR and Myanmar on 23 July 1997, and Cambodia on 30 April 1999. Currently, ASEAN has ten Member States.



AIMS and PURPOSES

The ASEAN Declaration states that the aims and purposes of the Association are, among others, to:

- Accelerate the economic growth, social progress and cultural development in the region through joint endeavours in the spirit of equality and partnership in order to strengthen the foundation for a prosperous and peaceful community of Southeast Asian Nations.
- Promote regional peace and stability through abiding respect for justice and the rule of law in the relationship among countries of the region and adherence to the principles of the United Nations Charter.

STRUCTURE

The highest decision-making body of ASEAN is the meeting of the Heads of Government/State of the Member States – the ASEAN Summit.

The Chairmanship of ASEAN is rotated annually, based on the alphabetical order of the English names of Member States.

ASEAN has numerous sectoral ministerial bodies which cooperate in many fields, including defence, law, transnational crime, trade, investment, finance, agriculture and forestry, energy, mineral, science and technology, transport, telecommunications and information technology, tourism, information, culture and arts, education, disaster management, environment, haze pollution, health, labour, rural development and poverty eradication, youth, women and children, and sports.

ASEAN CHARTER

The ASEAN Leaders adopted the ASEAN Charter at their Summit in Singapore in November 2007. A High Level Task Force had drafted the Charter, drawing upon the recommendations of an Eminent Persons Group. The Charter embodies fundamental principles, goals, objectives and structures of ASEAN cooperation, codifies all ASEAN norms, rules and values, gives ASEAN a “legal personality”, determines the functions, and develops areas of competence of key ASEAN bodies and their relationship with one another.

With the entry into force of the ASEAN Charter on 15 December 2008, ASEAN has become a rules-based intergovernmental organisation with a legal personality. Some institutional changes include:

- An improved structure to ensure greater efficiency and prompt implementation of ASEAN agreements and decisions
- Convening of the ASEAN Summit twice a year
- Creation of an ASEAN Coordinating Council
- Single Chairmanship for key high-level ASEAN bodies
- Creation of a Committee of Permanent Representatives in Jakarta
- Establishment of the ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights



LANDMARK DOCUMENTS

1967	ASEAN Declaration
1971	Zone of Peace, Freedom and Neutrality Declaration
1976	• Declaration of ASEAN Concord • Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in Southeast Asia
1992	Agreement on the Common Effective Preferential Tariff Scheme for the ASEAN Free Trade Area
1995	Treaty on the Southeast Asia Nuclear Weapon-Free Zone
1997	ASEAN Vision 2020
2002	Declaration on the Conduct of Parties in the South China Sea
2003	Declaration of ASEAN Concord II
2007	Charter of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations
2009	Cha-am Hua Hin Declaration on the Roadmap for the ASEAN Community (2009-2015)
2010	Ha Noi Declaration on the Adoption of the Master Plan on ASEAN Connectivity
2011	Bali Declaration on ASEAN Community in A Global Community of Nations “Bali Concord III”
2012	ASEAN Human Rights Declaration and Phnom Penh Statement on the Adoption of the ASEAN Human Rights Declaration
2015	• Kuala Lumpur Declaration on ASEAN 2025: Forging Ahead Together • Kuala Lumpur Declaration on the Establishment of the ASEAN Community • ASEAN Convention on Trafficking in Persons Especially Against Women and Children (ACTIP)
2016	Vientiane Declaration on the Adoption of the Master Plan on ASEAN Connectivity 2025

EXTERNAL RELATIONS

ASEAN develops friendly relations and mutually beneficial dialogue, cooperation and partnerships with countries and sub-regional, regional and international organisations. ASEAN currently has ten Dialogue Partners, namely Australia, Canada, China, the European Union, India, Japan, the Republic of Korea, New Zealand, Russia and the United States of America; four Sectoral Partners, namely Pakistan, Norway, Switzerland and Turkey; and two Development Partners namely Germany and Chile.

ASEAN is actively pursuing cooperation and dialogue with these partners to forge mutually beneficial cooperation, particularly to support ASEAN Centrality and ASEAN’s community building efforts and to promote peace and stability in the region. In addition, ASEAN is also reaching out to potential partners considering the increased interest by external partners in establishing formal partnerships with ASEAN.

To date, 91 non-ASEAN Member States and regional organisations have accredited their Ambassadors to ASEAN (NAAAs) and 54 ASEAN Committees in Third Countries (ACTCs) have been established. ASEAN is enhancing engagement with the NAAAs as well as utilising more effectively the role of the ACTCs to promote ASEAN in the host countries/international organisations.

ASEAN also maintains contacts and cooperates with regional and international organisations including the UN. In 2006, ASEAN became an official observer at the United Nations General Assembly. ASEAN also cooperates closely with regional organisations such as the Pacific



Alliance (PA), Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), Economic Cooperation Organisation (ECO), Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC), MERCOSUR, South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) and Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO), among others.

ASEAN 2025

ASEAN Political-Security Community (APSC)

The ASEAN Political Security Community (APSC) aims to ensure that the peoples and Member States of ASEAN live in peace with one another and with the world at large in a just, democratic and harmonious environment.

To achieve this, the APSC promotes political development in adherence to the principles of democracy, the rule of law and good governance, respect for, promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms as inscribed in the ASEAN Charter. It also subscribes to a comprehensive approach to security. At the same time, the APSC seeks to strengthen the mutually beneficial relations between ASEAN and its Dialogue Partners as well as other external partners.

The APSC Blueprint 2025, the successor document to the APSC Blueprint 2015, was adopted by the ASEAN Leaders at the 27th ASEAN Summit in November 2015 as an integral part of the ASEAN 2025: Forging Ahead Together. It is envisioned that the APSC will be a united, inclusive and resilient community by 2025.

“United by a common desire and collective will to live in a region of lasting peace, security and stability, sustained economic growth, shared prosperity and social progress, and to promote our vital interests, ideals and aspirations.”

The ASEAN Charter

ASEAN SECRETARIAT

ASEAN established a Secretariat in February 1976. The original premises in Jakarta, which was donated by the Indonesian government, was officiated in 1981.

As ASEAN grew in size, activities and stature, space for the ASEAN Secretariat is expanded. The new ASEAN Secretariat building was inaugurated on 8 August 2019, in conjunction with the 52nd anniversary of ASEAN, and opens a new chapter for ASEAN.



The APSC Blueprint 2025 comprises key characteristics as follows, all of which are inter-related and mutually reinforcing and shall be pursued in a balanced and holistic manner: a rules-based, people-oriented, people-centred Community, a peaceful, secure and stable region, ASEAN centrality in a dynamic and outward looking region, and a strengthened ASEAN institutional capacity and presence at the national, regional and international levels.

Moving forward, ASEAN through APSC, will further strengthen cooperation and advance partnerships to ensure sustainability in all dimensions for ASEAN amidst the rapid changes in Southeast Asia and beyond.

The ASEAN Secretariat has staff recruited locally and from the ASEAN Member States. The ASEAN Heads of Government/State appoint the Secretary-General for a term of five years. The four Deputy Secretaries-General comprise two Deputy Secretaries-General who are nominated by ASEAN Member States on alphabetical rotation and two Deputy Secretaries-General who are openly recruited.

The ASEAN Secretariat's function is to provide for greater efficiency in the coordination of ASEAN organs and for more effective implementation of ASEAN projects and activities. It is the nerve centre of a strong and confident ASEAN Community that is globally respected for acting in full compliance with its Charter and in the best interest of its people. Its mission is to initiate, facilitate and coordinate ASEAN stakeholder collaboration in realising the purposes and principles of ASEAN as reflected in the ASEAN Charter.

With expanded, new and modern facilities, the ASEAN Secretariat looks forward to supporting ASEAN more robustly.

ASEAN Economic Community (AEC)

The formal establishment of the ASEAN Economic Community as part of the ASEAN Community on 31 December 2015 marks an important milestone in ASEAN economic integration agenda.

By the time of its establishment, the AEC has delivered the following key achievements: (i) A more open market, with intra-regional tariffs virtually eliminated and formal restrictions in services sector gradually removed; (ii) Reduced trade costs through simplification of cross-border trading processes, including on customs procedures and rules of origin, harmonisation of standards, technical regulations and mutual recognition arrangements; (iii) More attractive investment regime, and a more business-friendly and innovation supportive environment through the adoption of common frameworks, standards and mutual cooperation in various areas; and (iv) Better connectivity in transportation and other infrastructure networks.

The AEC Blueprint 2025, adopted by the ASEAN Leaders at the 27th ASEAN Summit in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, guides the next phase of ASEAN economic integration from 2016 to



2025. Along with the ASEAN Community Vision 2025, the ASEAN Political-Security Community (APSC) Blueprint 2025 and the ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community (ASCC) Blueprint 2025, the AEC Blueprint 2025 forms part of the ASEAN 2025: Forging Ahead Together. The AEC in 2025 is foreseen to be one that is highly integrated and cohesive; competitive, innovative and dynamic; with enhanced connectivity and sectoral cooperation; and a more resilient, inclusive, and people-oriented, people-centred community, integrated with the global economy.

In 2018, ASEAN's collective GDP stood at US\$ 3.0 trillion, placing the region as the fifth largest economy in the world. Preliminary ASEAN statistics indicate that local merchandise trade in 2018 grew by an estimated 8.7% year-on-year (YOY) to reach US\$2.8 trillion, while foreign direct investment (FDI) inflows increased by 5.3% YOY to reach USD\$154.7 billion. As a growing economic power amidst uncertain global environment, ASEAN is supporting its market integration agenda with cooperation in new focus areas such as Global Value Chains (GVCs), good regulatory practice, sustainable economic development, and global megatrends including the fourth industrial revolution.

“The Association represents the collective will of the nations of South-East Asia to bind themselves together in friendship and cooperation and, through joint efforts and sacrifices, secure for their peoples and for posterity the blessings of peace, freedom and prosperity.”

The ASEAN Declaration
(8 August 1967)

ASEAN MEMBER STATES

										
States	Brunei Darussalam	Cambodia	Indonesia	Lao PDR	Malaysia	Myanmar	Philippines	Singapore	Thailand	Viet Nam
Capital	Bandar Seri Begawan	Phnom Penh	Jakarta	Vientiane	Kuala Lumpur	Nay Pyi Taw	Manila	Singapore	Bangkok	Ha Noi
Land area (sq.km)	5,765	181,035	1,916,862	236,800	331,388	676,576	300,000	720	513,140	331,230
Population (thousand)	442.4	15,981.8	265,015.3	6,887.1	32,385.0	53,625.0	106,598.6	5,638.7	67,831.6	94,666.0
Language(s)	Malay, English	Khmer	Bahasa Indonesia	Lao	Malay, English, Chinese, Tamil	Myanmar	Filipino, English	English, Malay, Mandarin, Tamil	Thai	Vietnamese
Currency	Brunei Dollar	Riel	Rupiah	Kip	Ringgit	Kyat	Peso	Singapore Dollar	Baht	Dong

KEY FACTS

Population (in thousand)	Total Land Area (in sq. km.)	GDP (in US\$ billion)	GDP per Capita (in PPP\$)	Total Trade (in US\$ billion)	FDI (in US\$ billion)
649,071.5	4,493,516	2,971.1	13,327	2,825.3	152.8

Source of data: ASEAN Statistical Yearbook 2018, December 2018

Source of data: ASEAN Statistical Yearbook 2019, December 2019

ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community (ASCC)

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, responsible stewardship of the environment, and gear towards the promotion of sustainable development. The ASCC activities also foster inter-cultural understanding and mutual respect, and prepare 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, 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, Health.

Development initiatives under ASCC Pillar are formulated to achieve outcomes that will encourage positive social changes in the region.

Against a backdrop of rapid technological, environmental, and societal transformation, ASCC will continue to remain its relevance while bringing equal opportunities and tangible benefits for all its people.

ASEAN CONNECTIVITY

ASEAN Connectivity aims to support integration and community building efforts by strengthening the foundational support needed to achieve the goals of political-security, economic, and socio-cultural pillars of the ASEAN Community.

The ASEAN Leaders adopted the Master Plan on ASEAN Connectivity (MPAC) 2025 at the 28th ASEAN Summit in September 2016 in Vientiane, Lao PDR, as the successor document to the MPAC 2010. The MPAC 2025 is a multi-year, cross-pillar, cross-sectoral, and project-centric initiative that serves as a comprehensive framework to link the region through physical, institutional, and people-to-people connectivity. With a Master Plan focusing on five strategic areas: sustainable infrastructure, digital innovation, seamless logistics, regulatory excellence, and people mobility, ASEAN Connectivity seeks to improve the way the people live, work, and travel. It underpins ASEAN in creating a more competitive, innovative, and resilient environment; promoting inclusive and equitable growth in the region; and connecting everyone in the region as one community.



ASEAN EMBLEM

The ASEAN Emblem represents a stable, peaceful, united and dynamic ASEAN. The colours of the Emblem – blue, red, white and yellow – represent the main colours of the crests of all the ASEAN Member States.

Blue represents peace and stability.
Red depicts courage and dynamism.
White shows purity.
Yellow symbolises prosperity.



The stalks of padi represent the dream of ASEAN's Founding Fathers for an ASEAN comprising all the countries in Southeast Asia bound together in friendship and solidarity. The circle represents the unity of ASEAN.

ASEAN ANTHEM

The ASEAN Way

Raise our flag high, sky high
Embrace the pride in our heart
ASEAN we are bonded as one
Lookin' out to the world

For peace, our goal from the very start
And prosperity to last

We dare to dream we care to share
Together for ASEAN

We dare to dream we care to share
For it's the way of ASEAN

Music : Kittikhun Sodprasert and Sampao Triudom
Arr. : Kittikhun Sodprasert