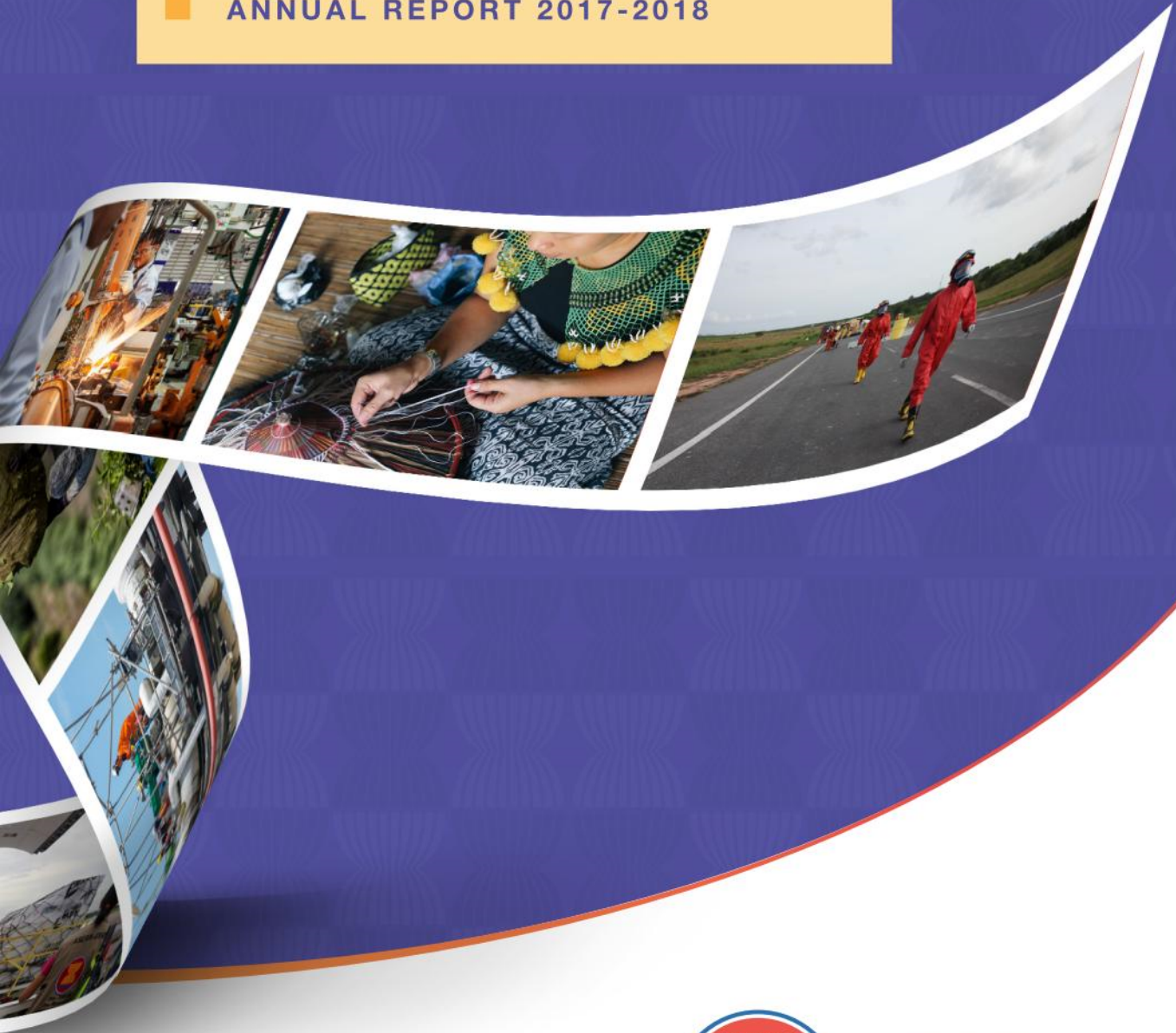


A Resilient and Innovative ASEAN Community

ANNUAL REPORT 2017-2018



ASSOCIATION
OF SOUTHEAST
ASIAN NATIONS





ANNUAL REPORT 2017 – 2018

A Resilient and Innovative ASEAN Community

The ASEAN Secretariat
Jakarta

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

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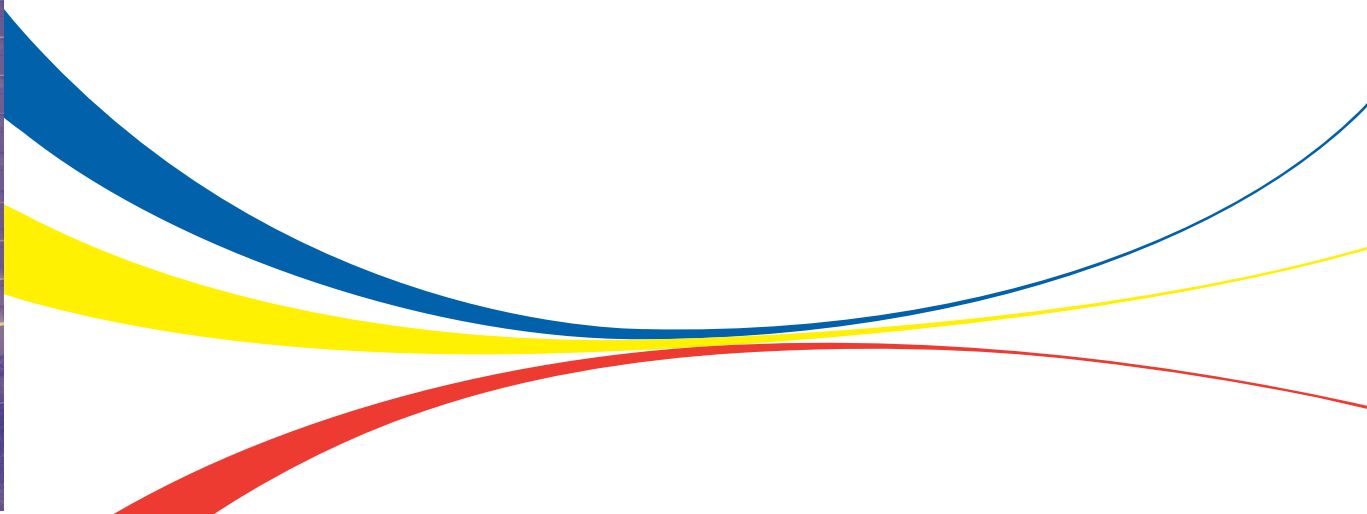
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FOREWORD

During the period under review, the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) witnessed unprecedented developments in some parts of the world that marked a turning point in current global trajectory. Among other things, the weakening of multilateral institutions, trade tensions, and unresolved flashpoints continue to cast uncertainty over short-to-medium-term outlook, and carry policy implications for the region. On the flip side, the pickup in global growth gave good cause for greater confidence.

Against this backdrop, the ASEAN remains steadfast in promoting regional peace, security, and prosperity, and in collectively addressing common challenges. Last year, the Association marked a significant milestone as it commemorated its 50th anniversary on 8 August 2017.

ASEAN, together with its external partners, has worked to ensure that the year 2017-2018 continued to be replete with tangible results in its community building efforts. Various ASEAN-led mechanisms such as the ASEAN Plus Ones, ASEAN Plus Three, East Asia Summit, ASEAN Regional Forum, and ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting Plus, continue to play an important role in shaping an open, transparent and rules-based regional architecture.

ASEAN's shared commitments to regional peace, stability and security have been translated into numerous initiatives on the ground to tackle transnational crime, violent extremism, terrorism, and radicalism. A more coordinated cross-sectoral approach toward security continues to be pursued. Work has also been undertaken in a wide range of issues such as drug control, consular assistance, and defence cooperation.

ASEAN has also continued its proactive role in managing regional issues, such as the negotiations

on the Code of Conduct in the South China Sea, which has commenced with positive momentum. At the same time, ASEAN has delivered humanitarian assistance, in a timely manner, to communities in need – both within and outside of the Southeast Asian region.

The ASEAN Economic Community was further reinforced through deeper market integration and increased competitiveness in the region, resulting in notable gains in customs, standards, and trade facilitation. Efforts to negotiate the new ASEAN Trade in Services Agreement also gained momentum. At the same time, ASEAN continued to strengthen its external economic relations, through the progressive negotiations for the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership, as well as the signing of the ASEAN-Hong Kong, China Free Trade and Investment Agreements. The First Protocol to Amend the ASEAN-Japan Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement is being finalised, which will facilitate the incorporation of services, investment, and movement of natural persons chapters, while the general review of the ASEAN-Australia New Zealand Free Trade Agreement is ongoing.

To support market integration, sectoral cooperation in various areas and sectors has intensified. Priorities to promote the Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises sector were further strengthened with a focus on women's economic empowerment, inclusive business, and streamlining business registration processes. Ensuring food security as well as energy security also continued to support the region's sustainable development. Meanwhile, regional connectivity – in terms of infrastructure and people-to-people connection – was further enhanced through significant progress made in the transport, information-communication technology, and tourism sectors.

The ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community pillar made substantial progress in enhancing the well-being of ASEAN's peoples, notably through the forging of the "ASEAN Consensus on the Protection and Promotion of the Rights of Migrant Workers." Separately, declarations covering the promotion of a region-wide culture of prevention, gender-responsive implementation of the ASEAN Community Vision 2025 and the UN Sustainable Development Goals, anti-microbial resistance, ending malnutrition, and disaster health management, were issued during the past year. On climate change, plans are underway to convene a special ministerial meeting and a stakeholder partnership conference this year.

I am glad to note that our progress to date has been achieved with the support from robust monitoring and evaluation frameworks as well as engagement mechanisms with multiple stakeholders including the business community and development partners.

The theme of "Resilient and Innovative" under Singapore's Chairmanship in 2018 is fitting in continuing the momentum of ASEAN Community building efforts, and towards building long-term regional resilience. Going forward, ASEAN will continue to work towards its long term vision, i.e., by building the region's readiness for megatrends like the Fourth Industrial Revolution, and resilience towards challenges such as inequality and climate change. The ultimate aim shall be to build an ASEAN Community that offers security, prosperity, and benefits to its peoples, and one where its citizens embrace the regional identity with pride.



DATO LIM JOCK HOI
Secretary-General of ASEAN



ASEAN

Political-Security Community Pillar

The goal of the ASEAN Political-Security Community (APSC) Pillar is to create a people-oriented, people-centred community in a peaceful, secure, and stable region. A major milestone was achieved in 2017 when ASEAN observed its golden jubilee – an occasion to celebrate 50 years of work by ASEAN on behalf of its people and the region. Multiple initiatives implemented with tangible results have brought ASEAN closer to the people and have made the region safe and stable for the people to enjoy.

Bringing ASEAN Closer to the People

To bring ASEAN closer to those it serves, Meetings of the ASEAN Directors-General of Immigration Departments and the Heads of the Consular Affairs Divisions of the Ministries of Foreign Affairs (DGICM) have continuously addressed issues relevant to the movement of people from the perspective of immigration and consular affairs. For the benefit of their peoples, ASEAN Member States are currently ratifying the ASEAN Visa Framework Agreement on Visa Exemption. Discussions also continue on developing draft Guidelines on Consular Assistance by ASEAN Member States Missions in Third Countries to Nationals of Other ASEAN Member States, the ASEAN Business Travel Card (BTC) and the ASEAN Common Visa.

To mark ASEAN's 50th anniversary, the ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights (AICHR) published a special edition of AICHR: What You Need to Know – A Compendium to increase public awareness. Similarly, the Youth Debates on Human Rights organised by AICHR aimed to enhance public awareness of human rights among the people of ASEAN. Among its efforts to build a people-centred community, AICHR, in collaboration with other sectoral bodies, developed the ASEAN Enabling Masterplan 2025: Mainstreaming the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and conducted a Cross-Sectoral Consultation on Human-Rights Based Instrument Related to the Implementation of the ASEAN Convention Against Trafficking

in Persons, Especially Women and Children (ACTIP).

Most importantly, ASEAN reached out to several displaced communities, such as in Marawi, Philippines, and the Rakhine State, Myanmar. The ASEAN Coordinating Centre for Humanitarian Assistance on Disaster Management (AHA Centre) has continued to work with the Myanmar Government-led mechanism to deliver humanitarian assistance to all displaced persons without discrimination. ASEAN is looking forward to the expeditious commencement of the voluntary return of displaced persons to Myanmar in a safe, secure, and dignified way without undue delay. Indeed, ASEAN stressed the need to find a comprehensive and durable solution to address the root causes of the conflict and to create a conducive environment so that members of the affected communities might rebuild their lives. ASEAN is continuously working to be an inclusive and responsive community that can address challenges quickly and effectively.

Ensuring Regional Peace and Stability

For the last half century, ASEAN has been committed to ensuring regional peace, security, and stability to promote economic growth for the betterment of its people. While ASEAN's efforts and achievements in security may not be always physically felt, people in the region have enjoyed a peace dividend that ASEAN has brought about through tireless work to ensure that the region remains stable and secure. These benefits have been made possible by the adoption of a comprehensive approach to security that has enhanced ASEAN's capacity to deal with existing and emerging challenges.

Recognising the increasing threats of terrorism, violent extremism, and radicalisation; ASEAN has worked to safeguard the interests of its people. This is evident from the adoption of a number of key documents at the 11th ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Transnational Crime in (AMMTC) in September 2017, such as the updated ASEAN Comprehensive Plan of Action on Countering

32nd ASEAN SUMMIT

25 - 28 April 2018

RESILIENT
INNOVATIVE



ASEAN Leaders at the 32nd ASEAN Summit, Singapore, April 2018

Terrorism (ACPoA on CT) and the Manila Declaration to Counter the Rise of Radicalisation and Violent Extremism. These documents, among others, show ASEAN's commitment to addressing the root causes of terrorism and to reducing the vulnerability of its people to radicalisation.

The ASEAN Senior Officials Meeting on Transnational Crime's cooperation expanded to cover people smuggling and the illicit trafficking of wildlife and timber. To enhance its capacity against cyber-security threats, the ADMM-Plus (ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting Plus) Experts' Working Group on Cyber Security (EWG on CS) was inaugurated in mid-2017 and the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) established an Inter-Sessional Meeting on Security of and in the Use of Information and Communications Technologies (ISM on ICTs Security) in August 2017 to discuss cyber-security confidence-building measures.

Under the aegis of the ASEAN Senior Officials on Drug Matters (ASOD), the ASEAN Cooperation Plan to Tackle Illicit Drug Production and Trafficking in the Golden Triangle 2017-2019 is expected to curb illicit drug problems in the Golden Triangle

and prevent spillover to other nations. ASEAN also continues to produce its annual ASEAN Drug Monitoring Report covering regional trends and problems. These are undertaken by ASEAN to protect its people and communities from the harmful effects of drug-related crimes.

The defence sector is also ensuring the security and well-being of the people by addressing non-traditional security challenges. Practical cooperation was enhanced in October 2017 with the launch of Phase 1 of the ASEAN Direct Communications Infrastructure (ADI), covering secure voice and fax communication, under the ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting (ADMM) framework. Through the ADI, a framework is currently in place for two ASEAN Defence Ministers to communicate and arrive at mutual decisions when facing crises or emergencies related to maritime security. The significance and success of this effort was affirmed by ongoing discussions to begin work on Phase 2 on secure e-mail communication. Further, the ADMM-Plus will be held on a yearly basis from 2018 to enhance dialogue and cooperation with the Plus Countries via a platform that is led and driven by ASEAN.

To promote regional peace and stability, ASEAN has been active in maintaining the South China Sea as a sea of peace, prosperity, and cooperation. ASEAN has intensified its dialogue and cooperation with China to ensure the full and effective implementation of the Declaration on the Conduct of Parties in the South China Sea (DOC). In April 2017, the MFA-to-MFA Hotline to Respond to Maritime Emergencies in Southeast Asia was successfully tested and operationalised. In addition, March 2018 marked the start of the official negotiations on the Code of Conduct in the South China Sea (COC), following the adoption of the COC framework in August 2017.

United and Relevant in an Evolving Regional Architecture

Over the last 50 years, ASEAN has remained united, despite challenges from the unpredictable dynamics of power relations in the region and beyond. Maintaining ASEAN Centrality is one of the greatest achievements of ASEAN, as it enables the ASEAN to take the lead in shaping the regional landscape.

ASEAN's work to preserve Centrality has been manifested by responding quickly and effectively to emergencies in the region, projecting a unified position on issues of common interest, and ensuring that ASEAN's collective interests are not compromised. Consequently, during the period of this report, a number of ASEAN Ministerial Statements were issued, including those on the DPRK's missile and nuclear tests, terror attacks in Pakistan and Iraq, the situation in Al-Haram Al-Sharif Compound, and the earthquakes in Mexico.

At the age of 50, ASEAN continues to pursue outward-looking policies to deepen relations with its Dialogue Partners and other external partners in various fields to realise the ASEAN Community Vision 2025. Among others, in 2017 ASEAN commemorated its anniversaries with Canada, the European Union, India, and the United States and ASEAN Plus Three through numerous celebratory activities and joint statements. A new formal partnership was

established in 2017 as ASEAN conferred the status of Sectoral Dialogue Partner on Turkey. ASEAN also agreed to accept Argentina's request to accede to the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in Southeast Asia (TAC). In addition, ASEAN continuously receives requests to accede to the TAC and to establish formal partnerships, demonstrating ASEAN's value to countries and organisations beyond the region. In the same vein, ASEAN Defence Ministers adopted the Second Additional Protocol to the Concept Papers on the Establishment of the ADMM and ADMM-Plus, paving the way for non-Plus Countries to observe activities.

The Next 50 Years

Looking to the next half century, ASEAN anticipates growing uncertainties in the global strategic environment and increasingly complex non-traditional and transnational security challenges. Consequently, the ASEAN Leaders' Vision for a Resilient and Innovative ASEAN, which sets out the principles and deliverables to prepare ASEAN for the future, was adopted at the 32nd ASEAN Summit in April 2018.

For the APSC Pillar, resilience requires strengthening ASEAN Centrality and unity, particularly in promoting its interests with respect to external actors. It is crucial for ASEAN to play a key role in developing the evolving geopolitical strategic architecture. This means that ASEAN-led mechanisms, such as the EAS, the ARF and the ADMM-Plus have to be inclusive, transparent, and, most importantly, proactive in promoting co-operation and addressing emerging challenges in a timely manner. Likewise, ASEAN's external relations need to be conducted practically, aligning ASEAN-Dialogue Partners' cooperation work plans with ASEAN Community Blueprints. To enhance regional peace and security, ASEAN must increase its capabilities and readiness in addressing non-traditional security challenges such as terrorism, violent extremism and cyber threats. In this regard, the ASEAN Leaders' Statement on Cyber-Security Cooperation was adopted at the 32nd ASEAN Summit. Through enhanced cyber-security cooperation and capacity



Representatives of ASEAN Member States at the 17th ASEAN Political-Security Community Council Meeting

building, ASEAN envisions a secure and resilient cyberspace that supports economic growth and greater regional connectivity.

As ASEAN looks ahead, the ASEAN Chair for 2018 proposed establishing an ASEAN Smart Cities Network (ASCN) to synergise development and catalyse technologies for growth and sustainable development. By leveraging technological advances, ASEAN hopes to improve the lives and livelihoods of its people. The ASCN is also expected to enhance cooperation and understanding between ASEAN and its external partners as they work closely to drive the development of smart cities for their mutual benefit.

To forge greater regional cooperation over the next 50 years, it is crucial for ASEAN to maintain its Centrality and remain resilient against the threats that come from an uncertain future. Community-building efforts must focus on people as the main beneficiaries of ASEAN's initiatives. ASEAN needs to produce tangible benefits for its people, as this will make ASEAN's existence more relevant and appreciated.



Jos Quyên of Viet Nam, an aspiring ASEAN youth leader, has been inspired by his own experiences to encourage his fellow young people to get to know ASEAN, be involved with other youths, and learn the same invaluable lessons he has. Jos started by joining the Ship for Southeast Asian and Japanese Youth Program (SSEAYP) youth exchange programme. He then won first prize at the ASEAN Foundation's ASEAN Youth Video Contest 2016 with a video about volunteering. This led Jos to take part in the ASEAN Foundation Model ASEAN Meeting, which instilled in him the courage needed to speak – in English – about ASEAN for a TED talk session. “Even after a year of knowing ASEAN, I can't believe that ASEAN has changed me a lot. It brought me friends, cultural understanding, opportunities in leadership, public speaking, and communication. As a youth leader in many exchange programmes, ASEAN is a chance for me to raise my voice as a young person in the community,” Jos shared during his TED talk.





ASEAN
Economic Community Pillar

As the ASEAN Economic Community (AEC) Blueprint 2025 entered its third year of implementation, ASEAN continues its focus on fostering long-term competitiveness and sustainability, driven by the Chairmanship themes of “inclusive and innovation-led growth” and “resilient and innovative” in 2017 and 2018, respectively.

Achievements in Implementing the AEC Blueprint 2025

By 2018, 98.7% of intra-ASEAN tariffs have been eliminated, while ASEAN continues to advance its trade facilitation work. Recent milestones include the live operation of the ASEAN Single Window (ASW) on 1 January 2018 for Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore, Thailand, and Viet Nam; the commencement of preparations in December 2017 to implement the ASEAN Customs Transit System (ACTS) Pilot Project in Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, and Viet Nam; and the entering of the final stage of the operationalisation of the ASEAN-Wide Self Certification (AWSC) Scheme.

Meanwhile, ten National Trade Repositories (NTRs) are up and running and are being linked with the ASEAN Trade Repository (ATR), which offers a one-stop platform for trade and customs regulations laws and other relevant information. The ASEAN Solutions for Investments, Services, and Trade (ASSIST) mechanism is fully operational for trade in goods, providing businesses with a no-cost online consultation platform for the expedited resolution of cross-border issues related to implementing ASEAN economic agreements.

To address Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT), good progress has been made in implementing the ASEAN Sectoral Mutual Recognition Arrangement (MRA) for Good Manufacturing Practice (GMP) for medicinal products and the MRA for Bioequivalence Study Reports of Generic Medicinal Products. Separately, the MRA for Inspection and Certification Systems on Food Hygiene for Prepared Foodstuff Products has been signed while the Guidelines on Type

Approval Control for the weighing and measuring instruments have been endorsed.

On the liberalisation of services, the Protocol to Implement the 10th Package of Commitments under the ASEAN Framework Agreement on Services (AFAS) is targeted for signing in 2018. ASEAN is also entering to the next stage of service integration through the negotiations of the ASEAN Trade in Services Agreement (ATISA). In parallel, efforts to promote the mobility of services professionals were continued by the review of the ASEAN Agreement on Movement of Natural Persons (MNP) and the implementation of various MRAs for professional services. Implementation of the ASEAN Qualifications Reference Framework (AQRFF) has also started.

On investment, another milestone was reached with the signing of the 2nd and 3rd Protocols to Amend the ASEAN Comprehensive Investment Agreement (ACIA), which addressed several items from the ACIA’s built-in agenda. The Focused and Strategic (FAST) Action Agenda on Investment – a priority deliverable under the Philippines’ Chairmanship in 2017 – has also been implemented through several initiatives aligned with ACIA’s four pillars: investment liberalisation, facilitation, promotion, and protection.

On financial integration, the Protocol to Implement the 8th Package of Commitments on Financial Services under AFAS is targeted for signing by the end of 2018, while the Roadmap for ASEAN Insurance Integration Framework is being finalised. Significant progress has been achieved in financial services liberalisation, capital accounts liberalisation, capital markets development, payment and settlement systems, insurance cooperation, and financial inclusion.

ASEAN continues to strengthen legal and institutional structures through, among others, self-assessments of competition law regimes undertaken by Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore and Viet Nam and the commencement of similar assessments



ASEAN deepens its support of the Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises at the economic core of ASEAN Member States.

on consumer protection laws and regulations. The Handbook on Competition Policy and Law in ASEAN for Businesses 2017 was published in its fourth edition, while consumer protection received a boost with the endorsement of the ASEAN High-Level Principles on Consumer Protection (AHLPCP) at the 49th AEM Meeting in September 2017. Improvements to Intellectual Property (IP) services delivery remain important. To identify issues connected to improving turnaround times for IP registration, several diagnostics studies on trademarks and designs were completed while diagnostics on patents are underway. Other important milestones in IP include creating publishing the trademark and design examination manuals, as well as implementing online filing systems for IP registration in seven ASEAN Member States.

Three new initiatives reinforced ASEAN's commitment to Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSME) development in 2017. The ASEAN Mentorship for Entrepreneurs Network (AMEN) facilitated the scaling up of micro and small entrepreneurs through the power of 3Ms (mentors, money, and markets). The Inclusive Business Framework helped create enabling

frameworks and eco-systems to promote Inclusive Businesses. Meanwhile, ASEAN promoted Women Economic Empowerment (WEE) by adopting an Action Agenda to mainstream WEE in ASEAN, publishing a policy handbook on Strengthening Women's Entrepreneurship in ASEAN, and by convening a conference for women entrepreneurs.

ASEAN's integration with the global economy continued with the signing of the ASEAN-Hong Kong China Free Trade Agreement (AHKFTA) and ASEAN-HKC Investment Agreement (AHKIA) by all Parties. The Protocol to Amend the ASEAN-Japan Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement is being finalised to incorporate Chapters on Trade in Services, Movement of Natural Persons, and Investment. The Stage One General Review of the ASEAN-Australia New Zealand Free Trade Agreement (AANZFTA) was concluded in August 2017 and Stage Two of the General Review will focus on follow-up recommendations.

The Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) negotiations continue to be given utmost priority. The first RCEP Summit was

held on 13 November 2017 where the Leaders instructed Ministers and negotiators to intensify efforts in 2018 to bring the RCEP negotiations to conclusion. To date 22 rounds of negotiations have taken place. RCEP Ministers have recently agreed to work with a greater focus on finding breakthroughs for conclusion of the RCEP negotiations, in line with the RCEP Leaders' mandate in 2017.

In addition, ASEAN has launched formal talks with the EU on setting up the parameters for the Framework for a future ASEAN-EU FTA. ASEAN is also working with Canada to finalise a Joint Feasibility Study for a potential ASEAN-Canada FTA. Separately, a Memorandum of Understanding between ASEAN and the Eurasian Economic Commission is under development to promote closer economic cooperation.

On connectivity and integration, four transport agreements have been signed: the ASEAN Framework Agreement on the Facilitation of Cross Border Transport of Passengers by Road Vehicles (CBTP), the Protocol to Implement the Tenth Package of Commitments on Air Transport Services under the ASEAN Framework

Agreement on Services (AFAS), Protocol 3 on Domestic Code-Share Rights between points within the territory of any other ASEAN Member States, and the Mutual Recognition Arrangement (MRA) on Flight Crew Licensing.

Ratification of Protocol 1 (Designation of Transit Transport Routes and Facilities) of the ASEAN Framework Agreement on the Facilitation of Goods in Transit (AFAFGIT) on 5 February 2018 paves the way for full ratification of the ASEAN Framework Agreement on the Facilitation of Inter-State Transport (AFAFIST), which would further promote the cross-border movement of goods.

The ASEAN International Mobile Roaming (IMR) Framework was adopted in November 2017 to provide travellers and businesspersons with transparent and more affordable access to international mobile roaming services in the region. The Work Plan for the development of an ASEAN Framework on Digital Data Governance was endorsed to engender trust in the collection of data and its use by businesses and to encourage the innovation and adoption of digital solutions.





ASEAN endorses best practices for agricultural and marine products to boost competitiveness.

Development is well underway for the ASEAN Agreement on Electronic Commerce, a priority deliverable under Singapore's ASEAN Chairmanship and part of the ASEAN Work Programme on Electronic Commerce (AWPEC) 2017-2025. The Agreement aims to facilitate cross-border e-commerce transactions and deepen cooperation between ASEAN Member States to establish a legal and regulatory environment that engenders confidence in e-commerce to drive regional economic growth and social development.

Energy security within the framework of sustainable development has been pursued on diverse fronts, addressing both supply and use. Renewable energy currently comprises 13.6% of the ASEAN energy mix. Efficiency and conservation measures have targeted major consumers and electrical appliances, yielding an 18.6% reduction in energy intensity from 2005 levels. Multilateral electricity trade was made possible in 2017 between Lao PDR, Malaysia, and Thailand, while open access for gas facilities in Singapore, Thailand, and Malaysia in 2017 is expected to improve the security and

accessibility of gas regionally. Projects are underway to pursue a wider framework for power trading in the region, as well to advance the role of natural gas, the intra-ASEAN coal trade, and the promotion of cleaner coal technologies.

To develop the region's mineral resources, a Reporting Mechanism to Monitor the Adoption of Sustainability Frameworks and Tools by ASEAN Member States was initiated in 2017. The inaugural ASEAN Mineral Awards in 2017 recognised eight regional mining companies; aiming to document, disseminate and increase the replicability of their best practices. A stock-take of AMS policies on abandoned and closed mines is underway, while concerted efforts to meet sustainability goals are made through addressing mining's impact on people and communities, looking to enhance mining's social license to develop the region's vast mineral resources, and boost trade and investment.



ASEAN Declaration on Innovation provides regional policy direction on strengthening impacts of science, technology and innovation.

The ASEAN Ministers of Agriculture and Forestry (AMAF) have endorsed several ASEAN Agricultural Best Practices, including Good Animal Husbandry Practices (GAHP) for Layers and Broilers in ASEAN Countries, Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) for Production of Fresh Fruits and Vegetables in ASEAN Countries and Guidelines on ASEAN Good Aquaculture Practices (GAqP) for Food Fish to support the competitiveness of ASEAN agricultural products in regional and world markets. These standards are the basis for determining the equivalence of existing national standards or as blueprints for AMS currently without national standards systems in place. Work remains to implement these standards at the regional and national levels so as to increase buyer confidence and demand, promote uptake at the farm level, and to foster appropriate levels of cross-border protection.

Tourism continues to be a strategic sector for ASEAN. Tourism Ministers adopted the ASEAN Tourism Strategic Plan's (ATSP) two-year Work Plan for 2018-2019, the ASEAN Tourism Marketing Strategy (ATMS) 2017-2020, the Joint Declaration on Gastronomy Tourism as well as the ASEAN Declaration on Cruise Tourism, the last one is an economic priority deliverables for Singapore's 2018 ASEAN Chairmanship. Under the Mutual Recognition Arrangement on Tourism Professionals (MRA-TP), 242 toolboxes for all divisions have been fully developed, with training completed for all Master Trainers and Master Assessors. The Visit ASEAN@50 Campaign was successfully implemented, as witnessed by 125 million international visitor arrivals, which exceeded a target of 121 million and generated USD 93 billion in revenue. The success was attributed to the Visit ASEAN@50 microsite, promotional events, the active participation of individual AMS, and support by international partners, among others.





AEC Blueprint 2025 themes are inclusion, inclusive-driven growth, resiliency and innovation

Recognising the importance of Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) to foster sustainable economic growth, job creation, and well-being, ASEAN Leaders adopted the ASEAN Declaration on Innovation to provide regional policy direction on strengthening STI's impact.

While the ASEAN Specialised Meteorological Centre (ASMC) leads the conduct of the biannual ASEAN Climate Outlook Forum, several other centres or networks were created in 2017 to support science, technology and innovation. The ASEAN Large Nuclear and Synchrotron Network, for example, was established to promote sharing of nuclear, synchrotron, and other related facilities that typically require huge infrastructure investments for broad-based scientific, and technology research. Meanwhile, the ASEAN Network for Nuclear Power Safety Research was established to enhance understanding of nuclear safety issues through advanced modelling and analysis to guide policies for energy security, emergency medical response planning, and nuclear disaster management and mitigation. The ASEAN Hydroinformatics and Climate Data Centre was established to promote the implementation of hydroinformatics and related technologies for efficient water management, water-related

disaster risk reduction, and climate change adaptation.

AEC 2025 Monitoring and Evaluation

All 23 AEC sectoral work plans (SWPs) to support implementation of the AEC Blueprint 2025 have been adopted by sectoral ministerial bodies and endorsed by the AEC Council. The AEC 2025 Consolidated Strategic Action Plan (CSAP) – a single reference for key action items drawn from the AEC sectoral work plans – was made public in February 2017 and will be updated in 2018.

Implementation of the AEC Blueprint 2025 has been supported by the operationalisation of the AEC 2025 Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) Framework including the development of monitoring tools and databases. One key tool is the ASEAN Secretariat's Country Visit mechanism to verify AMS compliance with AEC commitments as well track potential links between national-level initiatives, the regional integration agenda and other challenges. Two country visits were conducted in 2017 in Philippines and Indonesia, and two have been planned for 2018.

The inaugural edition of the biannual ASEAN Economic Integration Brief (AEIB) was released in June 2017, aiming to inform the public on progress in the ASEAN economic integration and relevant global and regional developments. A second edition followed in November 2017. Additional publications were also released, among others, the Global Megatrends: Implications for the ASEAN Economic Community, A Journey Towards Regional Economic Integration: 1967–2017, Celebrating ASEAN: 50 Years of Evolution and Progress.

The ASEAN Community Statistical System (ACSS), which implements the ACSS Strategic Plan 2016-2025, continues to strengthen regional statistical cooperation and create timely, comparable, and reliable statistics. In addition to harmonising statistics for international merchandise trade, international trade in services, and foreign direct investment; a roadmap for harmonising statistics related to the System of National Accounts (SNA) has been developed. Similar work is underway for sustainable development goals (SDG) indicators.

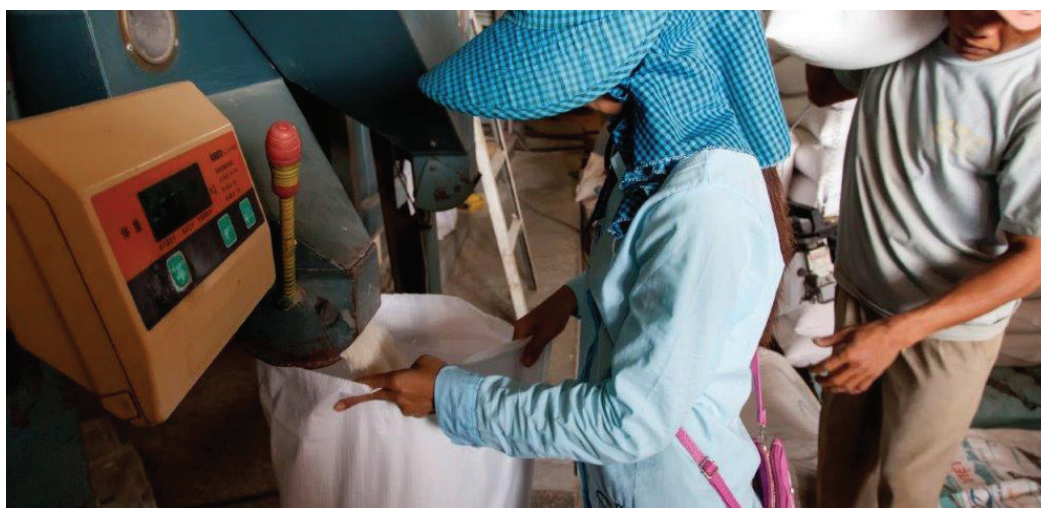
The ACSS is developing a Protocol for New Data Requests from ASEAN Sectoral Bodies

to respond proactively to emerging statistical needs. Recognising the importance of user-producer engagement, an online User Satisfaction Survey is currently under way to obtain feedbacks for further improvements in the quality of the statistics produced by ASEANstats.

Initiative for ASEAN Integration (IAI)

Since its adoption in September 2016, the IAI Work Plan III has given a start to 27 projects, worth USD 10 million, through the support of ASEAN-6 and ASEAN Partners. These projects mainly help Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar and Viet Nam (CLMV) to implement regional commitments in five strategic areas: food and agriculture, trade facilitation, MSMEs, education, as well as health and well-being. There were also activities service to increase understanding of CLMV officials on key issues including public policy and administration, through sharing of experiences by the more developed ASEAN Member States.

An assessment of the Attachment Programme of CLMV officials at the ASEAN Secretariat was conducted in 2017 to evaluate outcomes since its launch in 2001. According to the assessment, participating CLMV officials increased their



Initiative for ASEAN Integration projects help Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, and Viet Nam to implement regional commitments.



Science, technology and innovation are important to foster sustainable economic growth.

knowledge of ASEAN regional cooperation and established connections with the ASEAN Secretariat, other ASEAN officials, and partners. The experience also increased the officials' confidence, particularly in expressing their positions at ASEAN meetings, and developed skills that were relevant to their work.

Among other projects implemented in 2017 was the "Support to the IAI within the Framework of the ASEAN Single Market", a three-year project that has been providing assistance to Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, and Viet Nam. The project aided the digital recording of existing hard-copy registrations in Lao PDR as well as introduced online registration and licensing systems in Cambodia and Myanmar. These data and assessments are important for the countries to develop appropriate policies and national strategic plans to provide better health services to their people.

IAI activities also assisted targeted groups to implement regional initiatives, such as the ASEAN Good Agriculture Practice (GAP) which aims at preventing or minimising the risk of hazards for targeted groups in areas such as food safety, environmental impact, workers' health, safety and welfare, and produce quality. Through the Standards in the Southeast Asian Food Trade (SAFT) project, 240 coffee farmers in Myanmar were trained and certified in Good Agriculture Practice. With the GAP certification,

these farmers were able to sell their beans at double the market price.



Budding Laotian agripreneur Phoutthasone Phaengvilay – Noy for short – didn't realise how many other people were concerned about the aging population of farmers. Noy says she had an eye-opening

experience at the ASEAN-EU Youth Forum for Youth Engagement in Food Production and Value Chains, which was organized by the ASEAN Foundation and the ASEAN Farmers' Organisation Support Programme. As an entrepreneur, Noy makes almost six times as much as a civil servant does – and has the flexibility to manage her working hours. Noy strongly advocates for the young people of ASEAN to use agriculture to drive their livelihoods forward. "If you have a good business plan to guide you, then your business can be successful," Noy said.





ASEAN
Socio-Cultural Community Pillar

The ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community (ASCC), known as the “People Pillar” of ASEAN, envisions an ASEAN Community that engages and benefits the people – and which is inclusive, sustainable, resilient, and dynamic.

ASCC’s work on human and sustainable development in the region covers diverse areas, such as education, health, labour, social welfare, rural development and poverty eradication, empowerment, the protection and promotion of the rights of women and children, culture and the arts, information, sports, the environment, transboundary haze pollution, civil service, and disaster management and humanitarian assistance.

ASEAN’s 50th anniversary, with the theme “Partnering for Change, Engaging the World”, steered the direction of work for ASCC’s sectoral bodies and inspired significant accomplishments to buttress the ASCC Pillar. As a prime mover for an inclusive ASEAN community where no one is left behind – and where everyone enjoys and shares the fruits of regional integration – ASCC championed landmark policy frameworks that solidified the commitment of ASEAN Member States to inclusive and sustainable development through stronger regional cooperation and coherent national initiatives.

Most notable is the ASEAN Consensus on the Protection and Promotion of the Rights of Migrant Workers. The Consensus reflects the Leaders’ commitment to strengthening social protections, improving access to justice, increasing humane and fair treatment, and boosting access to health services for migrant workers in the regions. To sustain this momentum, an Action Plan will be finalised to implement these commitments with concrete initiatives, to be adopted by the Ministers of Labour and noted by the Leaders at the 33rd ASEAN Summit in 2018.

Another landmark document adopted in 2017 and led by the ASCC was the ASEAN Declaration

on “Culture of Prevention” for a Peaceful, Inclusive, Resilient, Healthy, and Harmonious Society. It demonstrates a significant shift in how the region addresses violence by promoting a preventative mind-set and by addressing the underlying causes of violence. The Culture of Prevention provides a mandate for ASEAN to engage sectoral bodies and relevant stakeholders in investing in long-term upstream preventive actions to ensure that violence, in its various manifestations, is prevented rather than just addressed.

The ASCC also championed several outcome documents adopted at the 31st ASEAN Summit in 2017 that expressed the Leaders’ resolve to ensure that regional integration will accord benefits and protection for all, including informal sector workers, women and children, disaster victims, and other vulnerable populations.

On health cooperation, ASEAN Leaders adopted Declarations on Anti-Microbial Resistance (AMR), Ending All Forms of Malnutrition, and Disaster Health Management (DHM). This political commitment stimulated localisation and operationalisation of ongoing and upcoming activities at the regional, national, and community levels.

On labour, ASEAN continues to promote decent work agenda. Following the signing of the ASEAN Labour Ministers’ Statement on Improving Occupational Safety and Health for Sustainable Economic Growth in September 2017, the aspirations in the Statement are being addressed through concrete initiatives including the biennial ASEAN-OSHNET Awards presented in April 2018 in Siem Reap, Cambodia. The Regional Action Plan of the Vientiane Declaration on Transition from Informal Employment to Formal Employment towards Decent Work Promotion in ASEAN was adopted by the ASEAN Labour Ministers in April 2018 and its implementation has started.

More concretely, the declarations are expected to accelerate evidence-based multi-sectoral and multi-stakeholder actions focused on vulnerable and disadvantaged groups. The declarations are also anticipated to strengthen human and institutional capacities for planning and evaluation, policy analysis and advocacy, research and surveillance, and service delivery, while boosting public investment and cooperation.

On social welfare and development, ASEAN has continued to ensure that marginalized groups are considered. ASEAN has developed policies to mainstream the rights of persons with disabilities in the ASEAN Community, to protect children against violence, and to end the sexual exploitation and abuse of children. The Declaration on Gender-Responsive Implementation of the ASEAN Community Vision 2025 and the Sustainable Development Goals, both adopted by the Leaders in 2017, aim to ensure that all women and girls in ASEAN can reach their fullest potential.

On education, ASEAN demonstrated that it cares for the needs of out-of-school children and youths by following through on the ASEAN Declaration on Strengthening Education for Out-of-School Children and Youth (OOSCY) with proposals covering the strengthening of OOSCY statistics, regional advocacy, and the development of equivalency frameworks for basic education.

The ASCC also made headway in pursuing a sustainable ASEAN. Regional efforts built on concrete environmental measures and initiatives have been ramped up to ensure a balance between development and sustainability. ASEAN continues to focus on conservation, the sustainable use of natural resources, environmentally sustainable cities, the coastal and marine environment, and sustainable consumption and production, among other things.



To deal with transboundary haze, ASEAN has intensified cooperation under the ASEAN Agreement on Transboundary Haze Pollution (AATHP) aiming to achieve a haze-free ASEAN by 2020. ASEAN is also finalising a draft Agreement on the Establishment of ASEAN Coordinating Centre for Transboundary Haze Pollution Control. Tackling climate change is also a priority, and an ASEAN Climate Change Partnership Conference and Special ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Climate Action (SAMCA) are slated to be held in 2018 to chart out the region's climate change priorities and how the ASEAN region can strengthen its cooperation on climate change.

The incumbent ASEAN Chair's themes of resilience and innovation have highlighted challenges amid an increasingly complex global geopolitical landscape – as well as the need to equip people with the skills and capabilities

to ensure that ASEAN remains a vibrant and dynamic community where people can live, work, and play. The priorities and ongoing work of the ASCC Pillar for 2018 include promoting green jobs, mainstreaming the rights of persons with disabilities, and promoting cyber wellness. These priorities will be translated into outcome documents to be elevated at the 33rd ASEAN Summit in November 2018.

In line with enhancing resilience, ASEAN has collectively continued to strengthen regional cooperation in disaster management and disaster risk reduction. A Senior Officials' Multi-Sectoral Workshop was convened in March 2018, addressing the challenge posed by more frequent and intense disasters due to climate change, human-induced disasters, and the lessons learned in the coordination and handover of relief items by the AHA Centre. The Workshop discussed effective coordination mechanisms



ASEAN continues enhancing its capacity for a swift and scalable disaster response.



ASEAN-supported youth programmes cover, among others, leadership, volunteerism, resilience, and life skills development

and responses following the Declaration on One ASEAN One Response: ASEAN Responding to Disasters as One in the Region and Outside the Region.

ASEAN also continued its commitment to enhancing its capacity for swift, scalable disaster response through the Disaster Emergency Logistic System of ASEAN (DELSA) and its satellite warehouses. ASEAN has similarly explored options for disaster risk transfer and insurance as alternatives to traditional disaster response financing. In pursuit of a dynamic ASEAN, the region continues to embark on initiatives to promote a strong identity and active inter-cultural activities. To commemorate the 50th anniversary of ASEAN, various cultural programmes – such as literary festivals, photo exhibitions, and seminars – were held to celebrate cultural diversity and vibrancy across ASEAN. Cultural cooperation with ASEAN Dialogue Partners has continued through initiatives with China, India, Japan, ROK, and UNESCO.

Education cooperation also contributed to dynamism in the region, especially among young people, via ASEAN scholarships and a credit transfer system scheme. In 2018, 400 ASEAN students received scholarships to study at an ASEAN university outside their home countries for a semester or six months. The recognition and transfer of acquired academic credits at their home universities was guaranteed. The ASCC Pillar also supported 20 youth programmes covering leadership, volunteerism, employment, resilience, intercultural understanding, and life skills development. For the first time, ASEAN developed an ASEAN Youth Development Index (YDI) to assess and document the outcomes and effectiveness of youth programmes in ASEAN.

The ASCC Pillar also works to prepare people to be more competitive in the labour market. By improving the competitiveness and productivity of ASEAN's workforce, including through skills development and vocational education and

training (TVET); ASEAN is preparing its working population to meet the demands of the market, especially in anticipation of the Fourth Industrial Revolution.

The information sector contributes to strengthen an ASEAN sense of identity for people. ASEAN has increased cooperation to address deliberate falsehoods, especially fake news, through the Framework to Minimise the Harmful Effects of Fake News. The information sector has also resolved to enhance cyber-wellness in the region, especially among youth. ASEAN adopted the Core Values on Digital Literacy for ASEAN to guide ASEAN Member States in their programmes on promoting cyber-wellness.

To better serve the people, ASEAN is committed to building a quality civil service. ASEAN adopted the Declaration on the Role of Civil Service as a Catalyst for Achieving the ASEAN Community

Vision 2025. Implementation of the Declaration and that of other ASEAN projects, such as the ASEAN Civil Service Talent Management Model, ASEAN Guidelines on Public Service Delivery, and ASEAN Resource Centres will help governments promote high-performing, dynamic and citizen-centric civil service.

As proactive member of the global community, ASEAN is committed to realising the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The ASCC Pillar has supported ASEAN Member States, as well as Thailand as the Country Coordinator of SDGs in ASEAN in promoting complementarities between the ASEAN Vision 2025 and the SDGs. The work of the ASCC Pillar in this area was noted by ASEAN Leaders, through the ASEAN China-UNDP Regional Report on Financing the Implementation of the SDGs in ASEAN, as well as the Report on Complementarities between the ASEAN Community Vision 2025 and the UN



Strengthening disaster management and disaster-risk reduction through close cooperation.



ASEAN continues to foster a strong regional identity through initiatives that promote inter-cultural activities.

2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development: A Framework for Action, among other things.

Progress has also been made in implementing the ASCC Blueprint 2025. As of 28 February 2018, from a total of 929 sectoral activities, 8% (71) have been completed, 47% (442) are ongoing, and 45% (416) are to be implemented in the remaining years.

Two monitoring and evaluation workshops were convened to develop an ASCC Blueprint monitoring system. The list of key performance indicators (KPIs) is scheduled to be submitted for endorsement at the 25th Meeting of the Senior Officials' Committee for the ASCC (SOCA) on 1-2 October 2018 in Singapore.

The ASCC pillar has also strengthened its analytical capacity to ensure that ASCC sectoral bodies and mechanisms are working as one for the realisation of the ASEAN Community Vision 2025 and beyond.



Charles Kenneth Lijauco is a man of strong will. This young Filipino is grateful and emboldened to make a place in the world for persons with disabilities with ASEAN's support. Charles and his partner Arnel Murga won the

ASEAN Citizen Youth Journalism 2017 contest by raising awareness about the experience of persons with disabilities through the "Project Akay" online campaign. Inspired by ASEAN's help, Charles is eager to pursue his passion for making the world more inclusive. "The ASEAN Citizen Youth Journalism made a lasting impact in my life – a huge one. I did not just learn the basics and ethics of citizen journalism, but also met people – visionaries – who are willing to help me with the advocacy, and that's the greatest thing," Charles said. "The programme provided a platform where I could voice my advocacy and let people from all over ASEAN hear it."



ASEAN-ERAT



One ASEAN
One Response

ONE ASEAN
ONE RESPO

AIRWAYS



ASEAN Connectivity

Realising the ASEAN Vision 2025 means realising an ASEAN that is well-connected, both internally and with the rest of the world. ASEAN Connectivity underpins the Community-building process and will aid ASEAN Member States to further integrate themselves by creating a competitive region, increase innovation and resilience, and provide a long-term foundation for inclusive and equitable growth in the region, as well as a greater sense of Community.

For these reasons, the Master Plan of ASEAN Connectivity (MPAC) 2025 was adopted to serve as a comprehensive framework to link ASEAN through physical, institutional, and people-to-people connectivity and to focus on five strategic areas: sustainable infrastructure, digital innovation, seamless logistics, regulatory excellence, and people mobility.

The MPAC 2025 is a multi-year, cross-pillar, cross-sectoral, and project-centric initiative that is just beginning initial implementation. The ASEAN Connectivity Coordinating Committee (ACCC) – the body entrusted to coordinate the implementation of MPAC 2025 – works closely with relevant ASEAN Sectoral Bodies, National Coordinators (NCs), and National Focal Points (NFPs) to translate MPAC 2025 initiatives into concrete project concepts for resource mobilization and implementation. As an example, the Lead Implementing Body for Sustainable Infrastructure (LIB-SI) was established in March 2018 to advance sustainable infrastructure development in ASEAN.

The ACCC has identified three MPAC 2025 initiatives as deliverables under Singapore's Chairmanship in 2018: the launch of an initial list of potential priority ASEAN infrastructure projects, a study to advance sustainable urbanisation in ASEAN that will feed into Singapore's establishment of the ASEAN Smart Cities Network (ASCN), and a review of Micro, Small and Medium-sized Enterprises' (MSMEs) participation in the digital economy. Let's explore each in turn.

Potential Priority ASEAN Infrastructure Projects

There is a pressing need for continued infrastructure development and investment – two things that have been key drivers for economic growth in the region. Accordingly, ASEAN will need to spend between USD 110 billion to USD 210 billion a year on infrastructure, according to various studies. Some progress has been made to address this. For example, since its establishment, the ASEAN Infrastructure Fund has agreed to finance nine projects with a combined total of USD 520 million.

A list of potential priority ASEAN infrastructure projects, to be launched in November 2018, will offer a pipeline for projects that will support greater connectivity among ASEAN Member States, the broader region, and beyond.

An inception workshop, which brought together agencies involved in infrastructure development and planning, was held on 18-19 April 2018 in Jakarta, Indonesia, to discuss tools to prioritise projects and build the capacity of relevant government agencies in establishing the pipeline. Improving regional capabilities in infrastructure development through systematic collaboration and learning among all stakeholders involved will help strengthen ASEAN's infrastructure capacity for better proposals, better visibility, and better outcomes for ASEAN's people.

Advancing Sustainable Urbanisation

An estimated additional 90 million people will move to cities in ASEAN by 2030, meaning urban dwellers would then comprise 45% of ASEAN's population, up from around 36% in 2015. It is essential for urban planners and the private sector to embrace the ASEAN Smart City Network idea and sustainable city management for infrastructure and service delivery. In this regard, ASEAN is currently conducting a study to advance sustainable urbanization to map out the strategies that have been undertaken by ASEAN Member States related to sustainable urbanisation, and will make appropriate recommendations in November 2018.



Infrastructure development and investment are key drivers of economic growth.

MSMEs in the Digital Economy

Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs), which comprise the backbone of ASEAN's economy, have been offered new opportunities by technology and the internet. The ACCC and the ASEAN Coordinating Committee on MSME (ACCCMSME) have launched a study on MSMEs and the digital economy, aiming to review participation across Member States and engage MSMEs, digital platform companies and relevant agencies to identify the challenges encountered by MSMEs in the digital economy. The study would recommend how ASEAN might better support MSMEs in adapting these new opportunities.

The ACCC has continued to socialise and reach out to stakeholders to promote ASEAN Connectivity, developing and releasing a video overview of the MPAC 2025 and five additional videos focusing on the Master Plan's Strategic Areas. The first video was launched on 12 November 2017 on the sidelines of the 31st ASEAN Summit and Related Summits in Manila, Philippines. The remaining five videos were released on ASEAN social media platforms

between January and April 2018. Web pages and bite-sized stories are also being developed. The 9th ASEAN Connectivity Symposium, themed "Towards Effective Implementation of MPAC 2025" is planned for 6 September 2018 in Singapore.

Dialogue Partners and other external partners were also engaged by the ACCC and informed about developments in implementing MPAC 2025, to obtain feedback on various initiatives, and to forge concrete cooperation. Effective coordination, cooperation and partnerships among relevant ASEAN bodies – as well as between National Coordinators and National Focal Points, regional and local governments, the public and private sectors, and with Dialogue Partners and other sub-regional and international organisations – are critical to transforming the vision of a well-connected ASEAN into reality.





ASEAN's 50th Anniversary and Outreach Efforts

On 8 August 2017, ASEAN celebrated its golden anniversary. This was not just commemorating an event from 50 years ago that changed the socio-political landscape of Southeast Asia. ASEAN's 50th anniversary was a time to reflect on decades of cooperation and unity that have transcended changes in governments – and yielded a Community whose people can enjoy the dividends of peace, stability, and prosperity.

As ASEAN Chair for 2017, the Philippines took the lead in organising regional commemorative activities. ASEAN also leveraged the golden anniversary to enhance awareness and bring ASEAN closer to communities while fostering a sense of belonging and pride among people in ASEAN Member States (AMS).

The centerpiece of the anniversary year was the “Tribute to Founding Fathers of ASEAN”, held on 8 August 2017 in Manila, Philippines, and attended by Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte, dignitaries from AMS, Dialogue Partners, as well as various stakeholders. The event featured the unveiling of a painting that depicted the iconic moment that defined the birth of ASEAN: The signing of the Bangkok Declaration by ASEAN's Founding Fathers. Outstanding youth social entrepreneurs and champions of biodiversity from the region were also recognised at the ceremony.

Each ASEAN Member State held multiple events to commemorate the anniversary, in addition to common activities such as the ASEAN Landmark Lighting and ASEAN Street Festivals. In Jakarta, the ASEAN Secretariat (ASEC) staged the 50th ASEAN Day celebration on 11 August 2017. The event, which had as its guest of honour Indonesian President Joko Widodo, hosted more than 1,000 people, including dignitaries as well as members of civil society organisations, the diplomatic corps, the general public, the private sector, and youth groups.

ASEC also partnered with the ASEAN Foundation to present a contemporary art exhibition titled “Assemblage: Reflections on ASEAN” to showcase

significant artworks from ASEC's collection as well as pieces loaned by prestigious private collections throughout the region. The exhibition – the first curated exhibition at the ASEAN Gallery – reflected on the transformation and advances that ASEAN has made over 50 years for AMS and people.

Through 2017, ASEAN Dialogue Partners also embraced ASEAN's 50th anniversary by staging participatory events aimed at the general public. The events included the EU-ASEAN Run, the ASEAN-India Family Fun Run, the ASEAN-China Car Rally and the ASEAN50 Parade which was led by Indonesia. Meanwhile, the ASEAN Committees in Third Countries celebrated the golden jubilee of in various parts of the world.

On the whole, ASEAN's 50th anniversary was commemorated with creativity, dignity, enthusiasm, and requisite formality. The many events inspired by the golden anniversary engaged many of ASEAN's diverse stakeholders in the true spirit of a people-centred and people-oriented community.

Outreach

Given that greater awareness is crucial for boosting public support of the ASEAN Community, ASEC has laboured on many fronts to ensure that an increasing number of people are well-informed about the opportunities that ASEAN offers. ASEC also assisted ASEAN Committees in Third Countries in promoting ASEAN outside the region by providing resources and promotional materials.

Media: Recognising media's crucial role in increasing awareness of ASEAN, the ASEC held the inaugural ASEAN Media Forum during the 50th ASEAN Ministerial Meeting in Manila on 4 August 2017. The forum, attended by Philippines Foreign Affairs Secretary Alan Peter Cayetano, engaged leading media figures from ASEAN Member States in a timely discussion of local and international issues affecting the region.

Leveraging that success, the 2nd ASEAN Media Forum, held in Singapore on 4 May 2018, brought together 30 media leaders and prominent bloggers from every ASEAN Member State for a dialogue



Groundbreaking Ceremony of the New ASEAN Secretariat Building

with regional thought leaders on issues critical to ASEAN. The event was co-organised with the S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies (RSIS), the Government of Germany (through GIZ) and Air Asia.

The ASEAN Media Forum is envisioned as a key channel to update media leaders on ASEAN's opportunities and challenges. The AMF will enable the media to objectively communicate ASEAN's initiatives, achievements, and overall stories to the people of ASEAN.

ASEC has started working on an ASEAN Awareness Survey to measure awareness among the people of ASEAN Member States as compared to the last survey conducted in 2012. The survey's results will help shape the development of practical

steps for ASEC to close gaps in awareness, communication, and information with a view to reinforcing the ASEAN brand.

Further, as the ASEAN Communication Master Plan (ACMP) expired at the end of 2017, a new ACMP has been developed with the guidance from the information sector. The new ACMP will provide a framework for AMS to communicate messages on the overall vision of ASEAN and the ASEAN Community to key audiences. To ensure effective implementation of the new ACMP, stronger coordination between all sectors and stakeholders will be forged to promote ASEAN and the ASEAN brand.

Visit Programme: Since young people are some of the most important stakeholders

of ASEAN's integration process, the ASEAN Secretariat's visit programme aims to enhance the awareness of university and high school students about ASEAN. During the reporting period, ASEC welcomed over 4,000 visitors from 78 institutions, including students, teachers, professors, researchers, and diplomats. To celebrate ASEAN's golden jubilee, the ASEAN Secretariat also organised a series of "ASEAN Day Goes to School" events at universities and high schools across Indonesia to increase the profile of ASEAN among young people.

Entities Engagement: Building on the success of the inaugural Forum of Entities held at ASEC in May 2017, a 2nd forum has been slated for the last quarter of 2018. The 2nd Forum of Entities will bring together representatives of entities associated with ASEAN or seeking ASEAN accreditation to discuss how they might further strengthen their collaborations with each other and with sectoral bodies to contribute meaningfully to ASEAN's Community-building efforts.

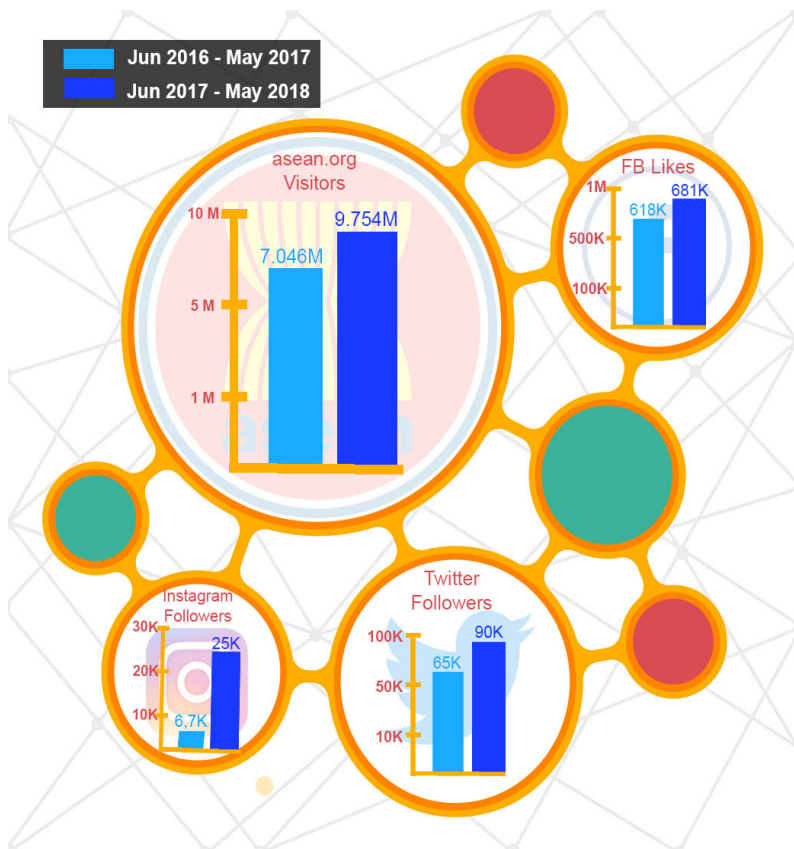


The construction of the new ASEAN Secretariat building will be completed by early 2019.

Social media: ASEC is utilising all available digital platforms, such as its website (asean.org), and social media channels, including Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn, Twitter, YouTube, etc., to widely broadcast the message

of ASEAN as a community of opportunities, in accordance with the ACMP. Over the years, these digital platforms have gained significant followings.

ASEAN's digital channels



Source: ASEAN Secretariat





ASEAN Projects and Programmes

Supporting ASEAN Community Building

These charts provide information and updates on the utilisation of resources for ASEAN Cooperation Projects and Programmes. Resources were provided by ASEAN Member States and ASEAN External Partners to support ASEAN Community Building under the Roadmap for an ASEAN Community (2009-2015) and

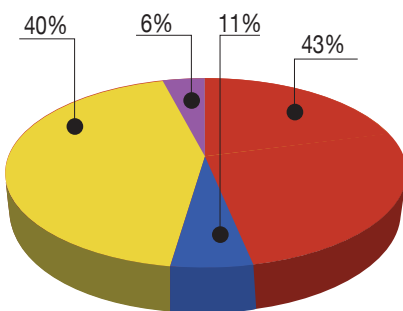
ASEAN 2025 Forging Ahead Together. The charts show the utilisation proportion (number and value) by three different ASEAN Communities, i.e., AEC, APSC and ASCC, as well as for cross-sectoral and institutional capacity building under the Other category.

Number and Value of ASEAN Cooperation Projects and Programmes (2009-2017)
Supporting ASEAN Community Building

Pillar	Number of Projects and Programmes	Project/Programme Value (In USD Millions)
AEC	261	527.2
APSC	135	138.9
ASCC	519	485.3
Others	60	76.0
	975	1,227.3

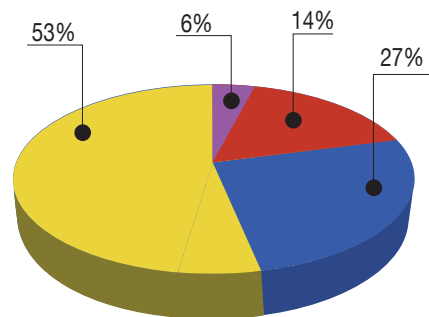
*Ongoing, Implemented and Completed Projects & Programmes

■ AEC ■ APSC ■ ASCC ■ OTHER



Total Value USD 1,227 Million

■ AEC ■ APSC ■ ASCC ■ OTHER



Total of 975 Projects and Programmes





