

ASEAN: A COMMUNITY OF OPPORTUNITIES



TURNING **VISION** INTO **REALITY** FOR A DYNAMIC
ASEAN COMMUNITY

Annual Report 2015-2016





Turning Vision into Reality for a Dynamic ASEAN Community

Annual Report
2015-2016

The ASEAN Secretariat
Jakarta

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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Foreword

The launch of ASEAN Community on 31 December 2015 marked an era of greater cooperation among Member States. For the region, it is a milestone that will deepen regional integration, further strengthening and consolidating the three pillars of the Community.

To continue this journey, the ASEAN Leaders have adopted the ASEAN Community Vision 2025 and the Kuala Lumpur Declaration on “ASEAN 2025: Forging Ahead Together” at the 27th ASEAN Summit to chart ASEAN’s direction for the next decade.

After seven years of implementation of the ASEAN Political Security Community (APSC) Blueprint 2009-2015, significant achievements had been made which further deepened and expanded political and security cooperation within and outside ASEAN. The establishment and institutionalisation of new mechanisms in the APSC pillar have provided a more robust ASEAN political-security institutional framework, especially in areas such as defence and transnational crime. While all the measures in the previous Blueprint have been addressed, many of them remain relevant and will continue to be addressed in the new APSC Blueprint 2025.

We achieved near-completion of the measures under the ASEAN Economic Community (AEC) Blueprint 2015 and ASEAN firmly committed to prioritise the remaining measures in 2016, as stated in the AEC Blueprint 2025. High-priority measures completed in 2015 include the signing of the Protocol on the Legal Framework to Implement the ASEAN Single Window (PLF); the 9th Package of Commitments under the ASEAN Framework Agreement on Services (AFAS); and the enactment of competition laws in nine Member States beyond the initial target of seven.



By the end of 2015, all action lines in the ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community (ASCC) Blueprint 2015 had been addressed. Its achievements also include the adoption of the ASCC Blueprint 2025. Through its work in education, environmental sustainability, social protection, disaster management and elimination of violence against children and women, among others, the ASCC had been a catalyst in building a sharing and caring ASEAN society – one that is inclusive and harmonious and where the well-being, livelihood, and welfare of the ASEAN peoples are enhanced.

ASEAN continues to undertake wide ranging measures to strengthen its institutions and mechanisms. We have been streamlining the conduct of ASEAN meetings, ensuring the efficiency and effectiveness of ASEAN programmes and projects as well as capacitating the Secretariat staff. All these initiatives would enable ASEAN to remain responsive and proactive in addressing the challenges of the coming decade.

LE LUONG MINH
Secretary-General of ASEAN



Our People. Our Community. Our Vision
MALAYSIA 2015

27th ASEAN SUMMIT Opening Ceremony

Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia 21 November 2015



*ASEAN Leaders at the
Opening Ceremony of the
27th ASEAN Summit in Kuala
Lumpur, Malaysia.*



27th ASEAN Summit

Under the theme of *Our People, Our Community, Our Vision*, during Malaysia's Chairmanship, the 27th ASEAN Summit on 21 November 2015 marked a new milestone in ASEAN's history with the signing of the Kuala Lumpur Declaration on the Establishment of the ASEAN Community 2015. The establishment of the ASEAN Community by end-2015 was the culmination of nearly five decades of regional cooperation and integration, contributing to peace, stability, security and prosperity in Southeast Asia and beyond.

To chart the direction for the ASEAN Community over the next decade, the Leaders signed the Kuala Lumpur Declaration on ASEAN 2025: Forging Ahead Together and adopted the ASEAN Community Vision 2025 and its Blueprints for the three pillars. The Vision 2025 and its three new Blueprints aim to consolidate and advance regional integration towards a politically cohesive, economically integrated and socially responsible ASEAN Community that is rules-based, people-oriented and people-centred. The post-2015 agendas for ASEAN Connectivity and the Initiative for ASEAN Integration are also being formulated and upon their adoption in 2016, would form an integral part of the Vision 2025.

ASEAN Leaders underlined the paramount importance of maintaining peace and stability in the region amidst the changing geopolitical landscape. This may be achieved through upholding ASEAN Centrality as well as other fundamental principles and commitments under ASEAN instruments such as the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in Southeast Asia (TAC), Treaty on the Southeast Asia Nuclear Weapon-Free Zone (SEANWFZ) and Declaration on the Conduct of Parties in the South China Sea (DOC). The Leaders agreed to further strengthen ASEAN's capacity to deal with existing and emerging challenges, including trafficking in

persons, trans-boundary haze, and terrorism and violent extremism, among others. In this regard, the Leaders signed the ASEAN Convention Against Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children (ACTIP) and underscored the need for early ratification and effective implementation of the Convention.

The Leaders commended the economic performance of the ASEAN region that remains relatively stable despite the volatile global economic environment. The Leaders were also pleased with the achievements of the regional economic integration efforts as demonstrated in the reduction of poverty rate, improvements in the overall well-being of the peoples of ASEAN, narrowing of the development gap, strengthened economic development and the expansion of extra-and intra-ASEAN trade and investment.

The Leaders highlighted the successful implementation of the ASCC Blueprint 2015 which helped enhance the well-being, livelihood and welfare of people in the region. Recognising people as the biggest asset of the region, the Leaders reaffirmed their commitment to a people-oriented and people-centred ASEAN through raising their awareness of and promoting participation in the ASEAN community building process to ensure the people of ASEAN fully benefit from the regional integration process.

The Leaders underscored the need to further deepen ASEAN's relations with Dialogue Partners, including through the elevation of several dialogue partnerships to a strategic level and the adoption of new Plans of Action. The Leaders also recognised the growing interests of external parties to establish formal partnership with ASEAN which should be considered in a holistic manner, taking into account geo-strategic considerations and

benefit to the ASEAN community building. The Leaders further agreed that ASEAN should play a proactive role in shaping the evolving regional architecture based on ASEAN-led mechanisms, including through the full and effective implementation of the Work Plan on Maintaining and Enhancing ASEAN Centrality.



The winners of ASEAN People's Award with H.E. PM Najib Tun Razak of Malaysia and Secretary-General Minh.



ASEAN's Year in External Relations

ASEAN's relations with Dialogue Partners and external partners continue to be strengthened and deepened in the past one year. Cooperation has been enhanced and substantiated through existing frameworks and mechanisms. New action plans and cooperation programmes have been developed to enhance ASEAN's relations with Dialogue Partners in line with the ASEAN Community Vision 2025. ASEAN has been reaching out to potential partners considering the increased interest by external parties in establishing formal partnerships with ASEAN. To date, 85 sovereign states and one regional organisation have accredited their

Ambassadors to ASEAN. ASEAN has also established 50 ASEAN Committees in Third Countries (ACTC) to assist in coordinating and facilitating ASEAN matters with their respective host countries.

ASEAN-Australia

- ASEAN and Australia agreed to convene a biennial Leaders' Summit beginning in 2016. This was in recognition of the elevation of the Dialogue Relations to a strategic level in 2014 during the 40th Anniversary Commemorative Summit.



ASEAN and Dialogue Partners.

- Australia continues to deepen cooperation and consultations within ASEAN-led mechanisms such as the EAS, ARF, ADMM-Plus and the Expanded ASEAN Maritime Forum (EAMF). This includes co-chairing and supporting several key activities and initiatives in the areas of counter-terrorism, maritime security and disaster response. Combatting trafficking in persons is a key area of collaboration between ASEAN and Australia, with the ongoing implementation of the AUD\$ 50 million-Australia-Asia Partnership to End Trafficking in Persons (AAPTIP).
- ASEAN and Australia have actively pursued opportunities to further already close economic relations. This includes Australia's strong private sector outreach in 2015-2016 to promote awareness of the ASEAN Economic Community through the publication *Why ASEAN and Why Now*. The First Protocol to Amend the AANZFTA Agreement, covering Chapters in Trade in Goods and Rules of Origin has now entered into force for eleven out of the twelve Parties. The AANZFTA Economic Cooperation Support Programme (AECSP) has also made significant achievements in advancing the built-in agenda of the Agreement. In November 2015, the AECSP was extended for another two-and-half years to June 2018, with a total Australian contribution of AUD\$ 26.53 million.
- Australia has extended its support for ASEAN economic integration through the ASEAN-Australia Development Cooperation Programme Phase II (AADCP II) from 2015 to 2019. Australia has also announced an additional contribution of AUD\$ 1 million to support the AHA Centre for the period of June 2015-December 2016.

- ASEAN and Australia have intensified people-to-people links especially in education. This includes Australia's commitment of more than AUD\$ 100 million over five years since 2013 to implement the New Colombo Plan including its expansion to all ASEAN Member States in 2015. Australia Awards and Endeavour Scholarships are also providing grants/scholarships to over 900 students from ASEAN countries to study/undertake professional development in Australia in 2016.

ASEAN-Canada

- As part of its commitment to strengthen relations with ASEAN, Canada has established its Mission to ASEAN, headed by a dedicated Ambassador H.E. Marie-Louise Hannan, who assumed office on 30 March 2016. Following the opening of diplomatic offices in Phnom Penh and Vientiane in 2015, Canada now has a diplomatic presence in all ASEAN Member States.
- Canada continues to partner with ASEAN on initiatives through the ARF in key areas such as countering non-traditional security issues, disaster risk management, human rights, Public-Private-Partnerships (PPP) projects and support for the development of Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs), among others.
- Canada has committed additional funding of CAD\$ 14 million to further assist ASEAN to address regional security issues including border security and human smuggling, counter-terrorism and preventing proliferation; connectivity issues; and initiatives to support the implementation of ASEAN-Canada Joint Declaration on Trade and Investment.
- ASEAN-Canada adopted a new Plan of Action to Implement the Joint Declaration on ASEAN-Canada Enhanced Partnership (2016-2020) to further deepen and enhance ASEAN-Canada partnership in all areas of common interest. ASEAN and Canada will celebrate the 40th Anniversary of their dialogue relations in 2017.

ASEAN-China

- ASEAN and China continue to strengthen their Strategic Partnership in line with the commitment of the Leaders at the 18th ASEAN-China Summit in

November 2015 to consolidate the strategic relations and maintain close high-level exchanges while continuing to deepen mutual trust and confidence.

- ASEAN and China have concluded negotiations on upgrading the ASEAN-China Free Trade Area (ACFTA) which is expected to contribute towards achieving the twin goals of two-way trade and investment of USD\$ 1 trillion and USD\$ 150 billion respectively by 2020. The Protocol to Amend the Framework Agreement on Comprehensive Economic Co-operation and Certain Agreements thereunder between ASEAN and China was signed on 21 November 2015 by all ten ASEAN Members States and China and is expected to enter into force in May 2016.
- The year 2016 has been designated as the China-ASEAN The Year of Educational Exchanges to promote student exchanges and people-to-people contacts. Various activities will be implemented under this theme. Closer cooperation in areas such as public health, science and technology and environment has also been forged through the implementation of the relevant Plans of Action. An ASEAN-China Strategy on Environmental Cooperation 2016-2020 is being finalised.
- Following the realisation of the Plan of Action to Implement the Joint Declaration on ASEAN-China Strategic Partnership for Peace and Prosperity (2011-2015), ASEAN and China adopted in November 2015 a new Plan of Action for the period 2016-2020 to further enhance cooperation in the next five years.

On the issue of the South China Sea, at the 18th ASEAN-China Summit in November 2015, the Leaders reaffirmed their commitments to ensure the full and effective implementation of the Declaration on the Conduct of Parties in the South China Sea (DOC) in its entirety and to build, maintain and enhance mutual trust and confidence; to exercise self-restraint in the conduct of activities; to not resort to threats or the use of force; and for the sovereign states directly concerned to resolve their differences and disputes through peaceful means, including through friendly consultations and negotiations, in accordance with international law including UNCLOS 1982. They agreed to maintain the momentum of regular official consultations and work towards the early conclusion of a COC on the basis of consensus. In this regard,

both ASEAN and China have adopted the Work Plan on the Implementation of the DOC for 2016-2017. ASEAN and China are celebrating the 25th Anniversary of ASEAN-China Dialogue Relations in 2016. The ASEAN-China Commemorative Summit to celebrate this occasion will be held back-to-back with the 29th ASEAN Summit in September 2016 in Lao PDR. A series of commemorative activities will be conducted throughout the year in ASEAN Member States and China to celebrate the milestone.

ASEAN-European Union (EU)

- The ASEAN-EU dialogue relations witnessed a number of important milestones in 2015 and 2016. The EU appointed its first resident Ambassador to ASEAN, H.E. Francisco Fontan Pardo in September 2015 to demonstrate the grouping's strong desire to strengthen its partnership with ASEAN. The EU Mission to ASEAN was inaugurated in January 2016.
- The EU reiterated its commitment to more than double the dedicated support for ASEAN's institution building and Community-building goals to €170 million for the period 2014-2020. This support is focused on (i) connectivity, through sustainable and inclusive economic integration and trade; (ii) climate change, environment and disaster management; and (iii) comprehensive dialogue facility. In addition, the EU is also supporting projects and programmes

related to ASEAN Connectivity, strengthening the capacity of the ASEAN Secretariat and narrowing the intra ASEAN development gap.

- As part of the implementation of the Bandar Seri Begawan Plan of Action to Strengthen ASEAN-EU Enhanced Partnership (2013-2017), ASEAN and the EU have made good progress in the implementation of the various cooperation programmes, among others, the ASEAN-EU Migration and Border Management Programme Phase II, the Institutional Capacity Building for ASEAN Monitoring and Statistics (COMPASS), the ASEAN Project on the Protection of Intellectual Property Rights (ECAP III), the EU Support to Higher Education in ASEAN Region (EU SHARE) and the ASEAN-EU Emergency Management Programme (AEEMP).
- The inaugural ASEAN-EU Policy Dialogue on Human Rights, attended by the AICHR, the ACWC, ACMW and the ACW, was successfully held on 19-23 October 2015 in Brussels. Both sides expressed satisfaction on the mutual engagement and agreed to explore regular dialogues on human rights issues of mutual interest.
- ASEAN and the EU will commemorate the 40th Anniversary of ASEAN-EU dialogue relations in 2017. Both sides are also working towards elevating their partnership to a strategic level.



ASEAN-EU Inaugural Policy Dialogue on enhancing connectivity and comparability in higher education.

ASEAN-India

- ASEAN and India continue to strengthen their Strategic Partnership with the renewed commitment of the Leaders at the 13th ASEAN-India Summit in November 2015, in Kuala Lumpur.
- Economic partnership and cooperation between ASEAN and India have been enhanced in the past year. The ASEAN-India Trade in Services and Investment Agreements had entered into force on 1 July 2015. The Agreement is aimed to promote and strengthen cooperation in investment; create a liberal, facilitative, transparent and competitive investment regime; improve transparency of investment rules and regulations; and provide for protection of investment.
- ASEAN and India are working towards the conclusion of the Memorandum of Understanding on the Establishment of the ASEAN-India Centre (AIC) and its early operationalisation, which would serve as a good platform to promote cooperation in various areas including in trade and investment and contribute to the strengthening of ASEAN-India dialogue relations.
- ASEAN and India have commenced discussion on a Maritime Transport Agreement to further advance cooperation and facilitation of maritime passenger and cargo transportation. Progress has also been made to enhance air connectivity between ASEAN and India with discussions scheduled to take place in 2016 to ensure the expeditious conclusion of an ASEAN-India Air Transport Agreement based on 'open skies' principles covering both air freight and passenger services.
- Following the realisation of the Plan of Action to Implement the ASEAN-India Partnership for Peace, Progress and Shared Prosperity (2010-2015). A new Plan of Action (2016-2020) was adopted at the ASEAN-India Ministerial Meeting in August 2015 in Kuala Lumpur to further enhance cooperation and partnership over the next five years. The new Plan of Action covers cooperation in areas such as science and technology, renewable energy, food security, tourism, the Initiative for ASEAN Integration and narrowing the intra-ASEAN development gap.

ASEAN-Japan

- ASEAN-Japan Dialogue Relations continue to be further strengthened through the implementation of the Vision of ASEAN-Japan Friendship and Cooperation and its Implementation Plan adopted at the ASEAN-Japan Commemorative Summit in December 2013. Substantive progress has been made in a wide range of areas of cooperation as identified in the Implementation Plan.
- ASEAN-Japan cooperation in addressing non-traditional security issues have been enhanced, particularly following the adoption of the ASEAN-Japan Joint Declaration for Cooperation to Combat Terrorism and Transnational Crime at the 17th ASEAN-Japan Summit in 2014. A Work Plan for Cooperation to Combat Terrorism and Transnational Crime (2015-2017) to implement the Joint Declaration was endorsed by the SOMTC and their counterpart from Japan in October 2015.
- Substantive progress has been made under the ASEAN-Japan 10-Year Strategic Economic Cooperation Roadmap, including in the areas of development of SMEs and cooperatives, economic legal framework, science and technology, healthcare, logistics and transportation, information and communication technologies, education, human resources development and tourism. The Roadmap will be reviewed this year taking into account the ASEAN Community Vision 2025.
- ASEAN and Japan have reaffirmed their commitment to further promoting two-way trade and investment through the implementation of the ASEAN-Japan Comprehensive Economic Partnership (AJCEP) Agreement. The two sides have concluded negotiations on Trade in Services Chapters of the AJCEP and are now working towards finalising the Investment Chapters of the Agreement.
- ASEAN and Japan continue to place emphasis on people-to-people engagements and cultural exchanges to further promote friendship and mutual understanding. The Japan-East Asia Network of Exchange for Students and Youths (JENESYS) 2015 project was implemented from April 2015 to March 2016 with the participation of 1,840 youths and students from ASEAN Member States and 250 from

Japan. To continue this project, JENESYS2016 will be launched by Japan this year.

ASEAN-Republic of Korea (ROK)

- ASEAN-ROK Dialogue Relations has been further enhanced and deepened following the renewed commitments that both sides made at the ASEAN-ROK Commemorative Summit in December 2014 in Busan, the ROK.
- Cooperation in political-security continues to be strengthened through existing mechanisms and the exchange of views on various security-related issues of common interest and concern at the annual ASEAN-ROK Dialogue.
- The two sides are working to maximise the benefit of the ASEAN-ROK Free Trade Agreement towards achieving the total trade volume of US\$ 200 billion by 2020. The modality to further liberalise products under the ASEAN-Korea Trade in Goods Agreement was endorsed at the 12th ASEAN Economic Ministers-ROK Consultation in August 2015 in Kuala Lumpur. The Third Protocol to Amend the ASEAN-Korea Trade in Goods Agreement has been signed by all Parties to the Agreement. The ASEAN-ROK Business Council (AKBC) had its 2nd Meeting in November 2015 in Malaysia to promote cooperation among SMEs and business sectors of both sides.
- ASEAN and the ROK continue to enhance cooperation to address transnational and emerging challenges, particularly climate change and disaster management. Joint activities were conducted to implement the Memorandum of Cooperation between the ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity and the ASEAN-Korea Environmental Cooperation Project as well as under the ASEAN-ROK Forest Cooperation Agreement framework aiming at preventing deforestation and forest degradation and promoting sustainable forest management. Gender equality and empowering women are given importance in ASEAN-ROK cooperation and a number of projects have been implemented in these areas. ASEAN and the ROK are also consulting each other on potential flagship projects on ASEAN Connectivity.
- Following the realisation of the Plan of Action to Implement the Joint Declaration on ASEAN-ROK Strategic Partnership for Peace and Prosperity (2011-2015), ASEAN and the ROK adopted in August 2015 a new Plan of Action for the period 2016-2020 to further enhance cooperation in the next five years.



Students from the Republic of Korea during their visit to the ASEAN Secretariat.

ASEAN-New Zealand

- ASEAN and New Zealand celebrated a milestone in 2015 with the convening of the 40th Anniversary Commemorative Summit in Kuala Lumpur and the elevation of the dialogue relations from a Comprehensive to a Strategic level. The Leaders adopted the “Joint ASEAN-New Zealand Leaders’ Statement on the 40th Anniversary of ASEAN-New Zealand Dialogue Relations: Advancing our Strategic Partnership Towards Greater Mutual Benefit and Prosperity” and noted the new Plan of Action for 2016-2020.
- ASEAN welcomes New Zealand’s announcement of a significant increase in investment into its two key initiatives, namely People Strategy and Prosperity Strategy, as a demonstration to the Strategic Partnership. The People Strategy focuses on the development of the region’s people, particularly youth, including current and future leaders and the Prosperity Strategy focuses on agriculture and trade initiatives to support economic growth of ASEAN and New Zealand.
- New Zealand continues to provide technical and financial assistance to ASEAN in the implementation of the ASEAN-Australia-New Zealand Free Trade Agreement (AANZFTA) through the AANZFTA Economic Cooperation Support Programme (AECSP). The Ministers at the 20th AEM-CER Consultations in August 2015 endorsed the extension of the AECSP to 30 June 2018 with additional financial contribution from both New Zealand and Australia.
- Good progress has been made in people-to-people linkages including the commencement of the New Zealand Prime Minister’s Fellowship for ASEAN and the ASEAN Young Diplomats Study Tour.

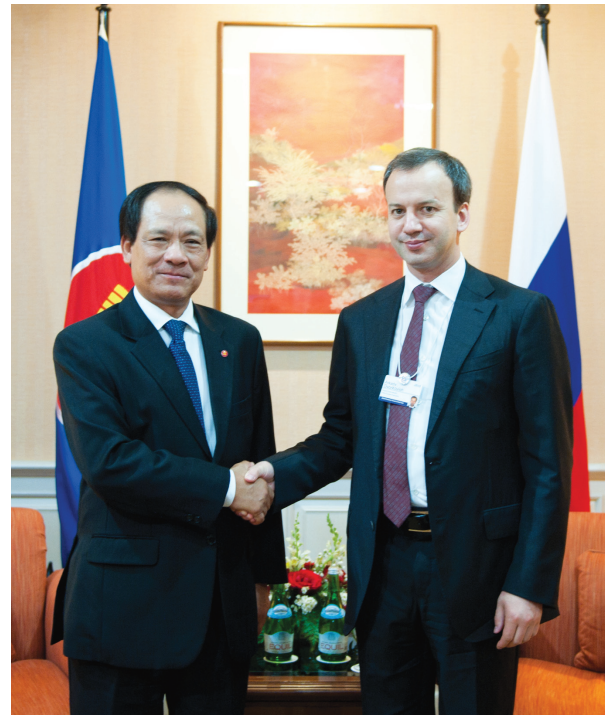


ASEAN and New Zealand Commemorate 40 years of partnership in 2015.

New Zealand has expanded the Young Business Leaders' Initiatives (YBLI) and has opened 225 postgraduate scholarships for ASEAN students. A new phase of English Language Training for Official (ELTO) Programme is underway with an increase in participants from 96 to 160 by 2017.

ASEAN-Russia

- ASEAN and Russia are marking the 20th anniversary of their dialogue relations in 2016 with a Commemorative Summit held in May in Sochi, Russian Federation. The Leaders adopted the Sochi Declaration of the ASEAN-Russian Federation Commemorative Summit to Mark the 20th Anniversary of ASEAN-Russian Federation Dialogue Relations "Moving Towards a Strategic Partnership for Mutual Benefit". A number of commemorative activities are being carried out to signify the deepening of the dialogue partnership. Both sides have designated 2016 as the ASEAN-Russia Year of Culture. As part of the commemoration of the 20th anniversary of the Dialogue Relations, ASEAN and Russia jointly developed and adopted joint sectoral work plans in the areas of science & technology, agriculture and food security, and energy.
- ASEAN and Russia established an ASEAN-Russia Eminent Persons Group (AREPG) to review ASEAN-Russia relations over the past years, explore ways to widen and deepen their existing cooperation, and make recommendations on the future direction of the partnership. The AREPG submitted their recommendations in the form of a report to the ASEAN-Russia Commemorative Summit in May 2016.
- ASEAN and Russia continue to implement the Trade and Investment Cooperation Roadmap which is aimed at further institutionalising a comprehensive dialogue mechanism on trade-related issues. The Roadmap comprises five key areas, namely, high-level policy dialogue; consultations at the Senior Economic Officials level; sectoral dialogues between ASEAN and Russian officials; trade and investment facilitation; and enhancing dialogue with business leaders.
- Following the implementation of Comprehensive Programme of Actions (CPA) to Promote Cooperation between ASEAN and Russia 2005-



Secretary-General of ASEAN, H.E. Le Luong Minh, with Deputy Prime Minister of Russian Federation, H.E. Arkady Dvorkovich.

2015, ASEAN and Russia adopted in May 2016 the new Comprehensive Plan of Action (2016-2020) to further enhance cooperation in the next five years.

ASEAN-United States of America (US)

- ASEAN-US relationship was elevated to a strategic partnership at the Third ASEAN-US Summit in November 2015 in Kuala Lumpur in recognition of the substantive progress made over the past several years. A new Plan of Action to Implement the ASEAN-United States Strategic Partnership (2016-2020) was also adopted prior to the Summit to further strengthen the Strategic Partnership particularly in five priority areas namely economic integration, maritime cooperation, transnational challenges including climate change, emerging leaders, and women's opportunities.
- Following the elevation, a Special ASEAN-US Summit, hosted by President Barack Obama, was held in Sunnylands, California in February 2016. The Summit discussed future cooperation and reaffirmed the key principles that will guide the partnership ahead. On this occasion, the Leaders adopted the Joint Statement of the US-ASEAN Special Leaders' Summit: Sunnylands Declaration.

- The ASEAN-US Trade and Investment Framework Arrangements (TIFA) have served as a key mechanism in strengthening ASEAN-U.S. economic ties since 2008. Through the “ASEAN Connectivity through Trade and Investment (ACTC)” programme from 2013-2018, the US has been ASEAN’s key partner in moving forward the ASEAN Single Window (ASW) initiative and has provided technical assistance for priority sectors including training of entrepreneurs from SMEs.
- The ASEAN Economic Ministers (AEM) Roadshow to the US and the ASEAN-US Business Summit in February 2016 have played an important role in raising awareness of the AEC and creating partnership opportunities for ASEAN and US businesses.
- The recently announced US-ASEAN Connect initiative in Sunnylands and the establishment of the three ASEAN Connect Centres in Jakarta, Singapore and Bangkok by the end of 2016 will deepen economic engagements between both sides. The new initiative will offer opportunities for ASEAN and the US to stay connected through better access to information and resources in four areas, namely, energy, innovation, policy and business. Another initiative offered by the US is the US-ASEAN Trade Workshop to help the non-Trans Pacific Partnership (TPP) members of ASEAN better understand the commitments of the high-standard trade agreement.
- US continues to engage and contribute to ASEAN through the EAS, ADMM-Plus and ARF in areas of maritime cooperation and combatting transnational crime including trafficking in persons, counter-terrorism, climate change and wildlife trafficking. US remains active in developing and strengthening leadership in ASEAN and to grow people-to-people ties between both sides through the Young Southeast Asian Leaders Initiative (YSEALI); the ASEAN-US Partnership for Good Governance, Equitable and Sustainable Development, and Security (PROGRESS) programme; and the Fullbright US-ASEAN Visiting Scholar Initiative among others.

ASEAN Plus Three (APT)

- The APT cooperation continues to be strengthened in the past one year. Under the framework of the APT Cooperation Work Plan 2013-2017, various projects and activities have been implemented and/or ongoing to implement the measures identified in the Work Plan.
- Substantive progress has been made in financial cooperation with the improvement in the readiness of the Chiang Mai Initiative Multilateralisation (CMIM) as the regional financial safety net, including through efforts to complete the Peacetime Preparation checklist, further development of Economic Review and Policy Dialogue (ERPD) Matrix, review of the IMF de-linked portion of CMIM, continuous revision of CMIM Operational Guidelines (OG) as well as periodic CMIM Test Run. The ASEAN+3 Macroeconomic Research Office (AMRO) has been successfully upgraded to an International Organisation on 9 February 2016 with the entry into force of the AMRO Agreement. The Medium Term Strategic Vision (MTSV) is currently being developed to further strengthen AMRO’s role in identifying and managing macroeconomic and financial risks in the region. Under the Asian Bond Market Initiative (ABMI), following the successful implementation of the 9 Priorities under the New ABMI Road Map+ (2012-2015), the current activities will be further advanced while adding new activities on the proposed Medium-Term Road Map.
- The Memorandum of Cooperation (MOC) on APT Tourism Cooperation was signed by the APT Tourism Ministers in January 2016 in Manila, Philippines. The MOC, which is to be implemented through conduct of joint projects, programmes and activities, will serve as a key instrument to promote cooperation in tourism among the APT countries.
- The APT Guidelines on Student Exchanges and Mobility was endorsed at the 6th APT Senior Officials Meeting on Education in December 2015. An Expert Meeting was also convened in March 2016 in Tokyo to discuss APT guidelines on Transcripts for Exchange Students.

- APT cooperation on health is progressing well with the operationalisation of the strategies of the Joint Statements of the APT Health Ministers Meeting on Ebola (December 2014) and MERS CoV (July 2015). A table top exercise on Ebola was conducted in 2015 in Viet Nam as well as a series of video conferences were organised to promote information sharing and collaboration among APT countries on these challenges.
- In agriculture and forestry, progress has been made in the implementation of various ongoing activities under the APT Cooperation Strategy Framework, especially in the areas of food security and bio-energy, climate change mitigation and adaptation, sustainable forest management, agricultural research and development, and human resource development.
- As agreed by the Leaders at the 18th APT Summit in November 2015, APT countries are enhancing efforts to address emerging challenges in the areas of traditional and non-traditional security such as cyber security, maritime security, terrorism, extremism, narcotics drugs, trafficking in persons, arms smuggling and disaster management.
- As a follow-up to the recommendations of the East Asian Vision Group (EAVG) II to strengthen East Asian integration, APT countries concluded a review and assessment of the recommendations. The final report including a number of action plans for the recommendations selected for implementation was adopted by the 18th APT Summit in November 2015. The remaining action plans will be finalised in 2016 while implementation of adopted action plans is ongoing.
- Progress has been made under the EAS Energy Cooperation Task Force (ECTF) Work Plan 2014-2015 in the work streams of Energy Efficiency and Conservation, Biofuels for Transport and Other Purposes, and Renewable and Alternative Power Generation. The EAS Energy Ministers Meeting in October 2015 in Kuala Lumpur stressed the need to further enhance cooperation in these areas.
- Under the EAS Education Plan 2011-2015, cooperation projects were implemented with the focus on improving the quality and mobility of qualifications across the region. Programmes aimed at enhancing students and people-to-people linkages in East Asia are ongoing, such as Brunei Darussalam's Scholarship Programme and Australia's New Colombo Initiative. The JENESYS2015 project has been completed and will continue under the JENESYS2016 project.
- The EAS underscored the importance of enhancing cooperation in finance, in recognition of the rapid growth of Asia's inter-regional trade and financial integration. The 4th Informal EAS Finance Ministers' Meeting is expected to be convened to further discuss EAS cooperation in this area.
- Progress has been made in the implementation of the Declaration of the 7th EAS Summit on Regional Responses to Malaria Control and Addressing Resistance to Anti-malaria Medicines towards the goal of a Malaria-free Asia-Pacific by 2030. Following the establishment of the Asia-Pacific Leaders Malaria Alliance (APLMA) in October 2013, the APLMA Task Force was set up to promote cooperation in this area. The "Asia Pacific Leaders' Malaria Elimination Roadmap" was finalised and endorsed by the 10th East Asia Summit in November 2015. The Leaders also adopted the "EAS Statement on Enhancing Regional Health Security relating to Communicable Diseases with Epidemic and Pandemic Potential" to promote EAS cooperation on these issues.
- EAS cooperation on disaster management has been strengthened through various mechanisms, including enhanced cooperation between the ASEAN Committee on Disaster Management (ACDM) and disaster management authorities of non-ASEAN

East Asia Summit (EAS)

- The EAS continues to evolve as a Leaders-led forum to promote dialogue and cooperation on strategic, political, security and economic issues of common interest and concern in the region. EAS cooperation is progressing well in the six priority areas, namely environment and energy, education, finance, global health issues and pandemic diseases, natural disaster management, and ASEAN Connectivity.

EAS participating countries. The EAS Rapid Disaster Response Toolkit was launched at the 3rd EAS Rapid Disaster Response Workshop in June 2015 in Bali, Indonesia. The Toolkit will streamline disaster response among EAS participating countries. Other activities include the EAS Disaster Recovery Workshop co-organised by Indonesia and New Zealand in June 2015 in Bali, Indonesia where issues on the complex recovery stage were discussed.

- The EAS participating countries have agreed to extend the implementation of the Plan of Action of the Phnom Penh Declaration on EAS Development Initiative for another two years (2015-2017) underlining the need to enhance EAS cooperation in the six priority areas.
- The EAS recognised the growing need to enhance cooperation in addressing emerging regional and global issues, such as maritime security and cooperation, food security, terrorism and other non-traditional security issues. In this regard, the 10th East Asia Summit in November 2015 endorsed a number of initiatives, including the “*EAS Statement on Enhancing Regional Maritime Cooperation*”, “*EAS Statement on Issues Related to Security of and in the Use of ICTS*”, “*EAS Declaration on the Global Movement of Moderates*”, and “*EAS Statement on Countering Violent Extremism*”. A number of follow-up actions have been undertaken, including an EAS Conference on Maritime Security and Cooperation held in November 2015 in New Delhi.

To mark the 10th Anniversary of the EAS, and in line with efforts to strengthen the EAS process, the 10th East Asia Summit adopted the Kuala Lumpur Declaration on the 10th Anniversary of the East Asia Summit which took stock of achievements and defined the future direction of the EAS. The EAS participating countries reaffirmed their commitment to strengthen the EAS based on its established principles and objectives, and to ensure the EAS evolve to become a proactive process, with better preparation, follow-up and timely response to pressing challenges. As a follow-up to the Kuala Lumpur Declaration, the first EAS Ambassadors Meeting was held in April 2016 in Jakarta to discuss ways to ensure follow-up on the Leaders’ decisions. An EAS Unit has also been created at the ASEAN Secretariat to facilitate EAS cooperation.

ASEAN-Norway

- ASEAN conferred Norway the status of Sectoral Dialogue Partner of ASEAN at the 48th AMM in August 2015 in Kuala Lumpur. Pursuant to the establishment of the Dialogue Relations, the inaugural ASEAN-Norway Joint Sectoral Cooperation Committee (AN-JSCC) Meeting was held in December 2015, to mark the start of their formal engagement and pave the way for closer ASEAN-Norway cooperation.

ASEAN-Pakistan

- ASEAN and Pakistan are currently working to convene the Sixth ASEAN-Pakistan Joint Sectoral Cooperation Committee Meeting in 2016 to further discuss future cooperation.

ASEAN-United Nations (UN)

- ASEAN and the UN have implemented their Work Plan for 2015 and both sides are now working to finalise a new Plan of Action for the period 2016-2020 to further enhance cooperation in the next five years.
- The ASEAN-UN Secretariat-to-Secretariat Meeting in March 2016 at the ASEAN Secretariat discussed in depth their partnership and explored new areas for future cooperation.
- The UN appointed a Liaison Officer in Jakarta in 2015 to facilitate coordination with ASEAN and the ASEAN Secretariat in Jakarta as well assisting in the monitoring of ASEAN-UN cooperation.
- ASEAN and the UN convened the “Regional Dialogue II on Political-Security Cooperation: ASEAN-UN Collaboration in Support of the ASEAN Institute for Peace and Reconciliation (AIPR)” in February 2015 in Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar, and are working to convene another Dialogue on Conflict Prevention and Prevention on Violent Extremism in 2016 in Malaysia.

ASEAN Cooperation with Other Regional Organisations

ASEAN-Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC)

- ASEAN and the GCC are exploring the possibility of developing a plan of action to shape the future cooperation between the two sides. ASEAN and the GCC are also working together to convene the 4th ASEAN-GCC Ministerial Meeting.

ASEAN-Pacific Alliance

- The First Meeting of the CPR and Pacific Alliance Ambassadors in Jakarta was held in May 2015 in Jakarta and agreed to explore cooperation in areas such as trade and investment, agriculture, energy, logistics, SMEs, financial services and tourism. The Meeting also agreed to further explore other areas such education, culture and sports.
- The 2nd ASEAN-Pacific Alliance Ministerial Meeting was held in New York at the sidelines of the 70th United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) in September 2015. The Ministers agreed for ASEAN and the Pacific Alliance to continue working on concrete proposals in areas suggested by the First CPR-Pacific Alliance Ambassadors Meeting.

- The CPR held an informal meeting with the Ambassadors of the Pacific Alliance in March 2016 and subsequently met with the External Relations Committee of the Pacific Alliance in May 2016 in Bangkok, Thailand, to finalise the Framework for Cooperation as well as to further discuss concrete cooperation activities.

Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM)

- The 12th ASEM Foreign Ministers' Meeting was held in November 2015 in Luxembourg, during which the Ministers exchanged views on a number of economic and financial issues including sustainable development, non-traditional security challenges as well as regional and international developments. The 11th ASEM Summit will be held in July 2016 in Ulaanbaatar to commemorate the 20th Anniversary of ASEM and to chart the future direction of the cooperation framework across the three pillars of ASEM cooperation, namely political, economic and socio-cultural.

ASEAN CROSS-COMMUNITIES

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ASEAN Connectivity

In October 2010, ASEAN Leaders adopted the Master Plan on ASEAN Connectivity (MPAC) to support the ASEAN Community through enhancing regional competitiveness, narrowing development gaps, and strengthening ties among ASEAN peoples and between ASEAN and the rest of the world.

The MPAC and Its Implementation

To date, significant progress has been achieved in the three dimensions of ASEAN Connectivity, as follows:

- (a) **Physical Connectivity:** The ASEAN Highway Network (AHN) is progressing well without missing links in the network. "Class III" roads¹ and below that are within ASEAN's designated Transit Transport Routes have been reduced. The implementation of Singapore-Kunming Rail Link sections from Singapore to Thailand are on schedule while financing is being sought for sections in Cambodia, Viet Nam and Lao PDR. The Neak Loeung Bridge was inaugurated and operationalised in April 2015. The West Kalimantan-Sarawak power interconnection project has been completed.
- (b) **Institutional Connectivity:** Efforts to operationalise the three transport facilitation agreements of ASEAN Framework Agreement on the Facilitation of Goods in Transit (AFAFGIT), ASEAN Framework Agreement

¹ A Class III road is of 2 lanes (narrow) with double bituminous treatment.

on the Facilitation on Inter-State Transport (AFAFIST) and ASEAN Framework Agreement on Multimodal Transport (AFAMT) are currently ongoing, including the completion of relevant protocols to these agreements. Starting March 2016, the ASEAN Single Window (ASW) began live operations when Indonesia and Singapore started using the system to exchange certificate of origin data over the ASW infrastructure.

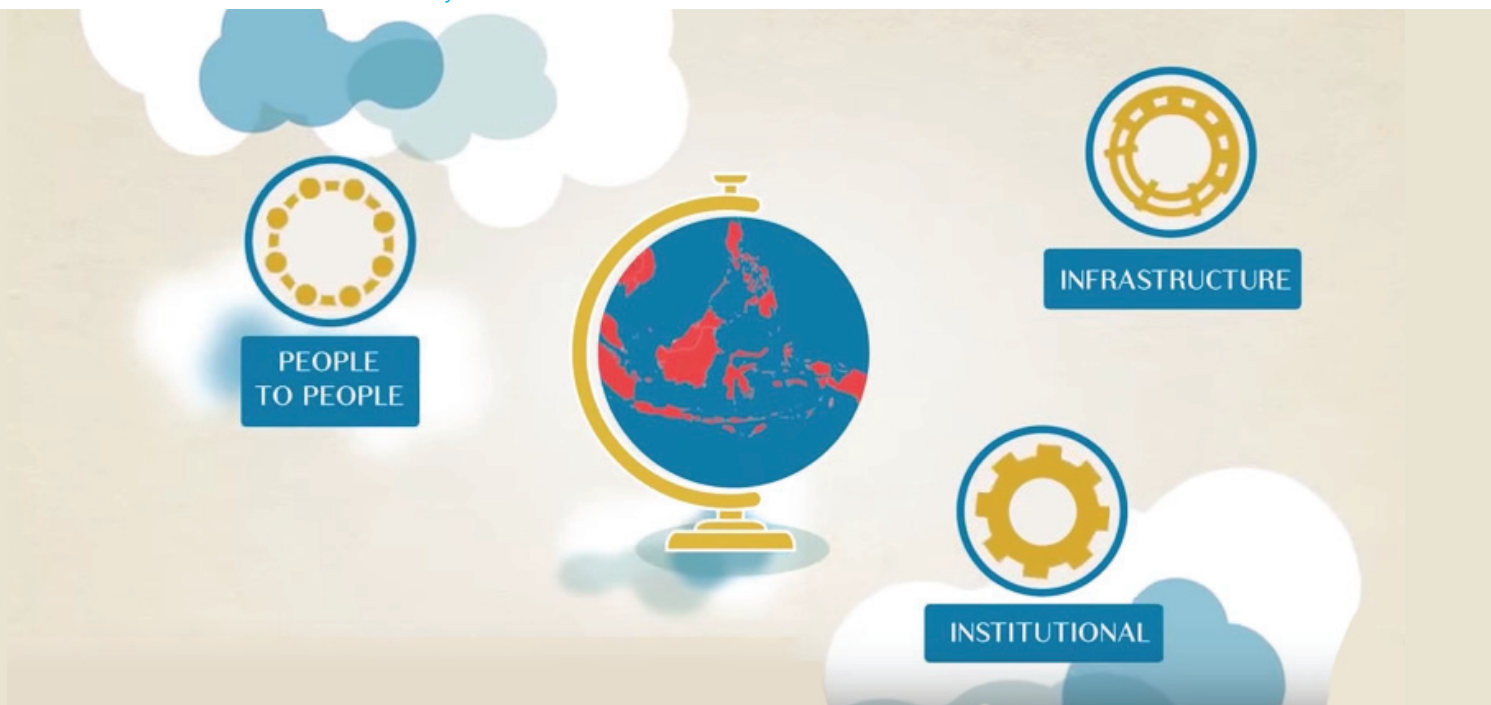
- (c) **People-to-People Connectivity:** Aside from the development of the ASEAN Curriculum Sourcebook in 2012, the ASEAN Virtual Learning Resources Centre media platform focusing on ASEAN's peoples, culture, and youth education has been launched and operationalised.

Despite these accomplishments, there remain challenges such as resource mobilisation, lack of clear implementation arrangements, and alignment of domestic actions with regional commitments.

To support effective resource mobilisation, ASEAN is strengthening cooperation with Dialogue Partners and other external parties, including the development of strategies to advance public-private partnerships (PPP).

Several awareness raising and promotion initiatives have also been conducted through the annual ASEAN Connectivity Symposium and further development of communications products.

Three dimensions of ASEAN Connectivity.



The Post-2015 ASEAN Connectivity Agenda

At the 25th ASEAN Summit in Nay Pyi Taw in November 2014, ASEAN Leaders tasked the ASEAN Connectivity Coordinating Committee (ACCC) to undertake an analysis of current and emerging trends affecting ASEAN Connectivity, a comprehensive review of the progress in MPAC implementation and to formulate a Post-2015 Agenda for ASEAN Connectivity. Five strategic areas have been identified: Sustainable Infrastructure, Digital Innovation, Seamless Logistics, Regulatory Excellence, and People Mobility. Through policy laboratories with field experts, stakeholders' forum, regional workshop, and various consultations, the ACCC will formulate the Post-2015 Agenda for ASEAN Connectivity for adoption at the 28th ASEAN Summit in Lao PDR in September 2016.

| ASEAN Coordinating Council (ACC) | |
|----------------------------------|--|
| Established | 2008, meets at least twice a year |
| Last Meeting | 17 th Meeting of the ACC, 20 November 2015, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia |
| Senior Officials | Committee of Permanent Representatives to ASEAN (CPR); ASEAN Connectivity Coordinating Committee (ACCC); Initiative for ASEAN Integration (IAI) Task Force |

At the 17th Meeting of the ACC on 20 November 2015 in Kuala Lumpur, the Ministers discussed issues across the three ASEAN Community pillars, including review of the work of the CPR, the ACCC and the IAI Task Force.

The Ministers reiterated their commitment to advance the ASEAN community building process through the full and effective implementation of the ASEAN Community Vision 2025 and the new Blueprints. The Ministers underscored the importance of ensuring that efficient coordination, robust monitoring and review mechanisms are in place in this undertaking with adequate resources as well as enhanced institutional capacity.

With a view to strengthening coordination across the three pillars, the Ministers urged the expeditious secondment of the AEC and ASCC officials to the Permanent Missions of ASEAN in Jakarta. The Ministers also requested the Joint Consultative Meeting (JCM) to play a catalyst role in addressing cross-cutting issues, taking into account its newly adopted Terms of Reference. In addition, the Ministers stressed the urgent need to enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of ASEAN institutions, including through the strengthening of the ASEAN Secretariat and streamlining of ASEAN work processes and meetings.

Recognising how important the narrowing of the development gap is to the ASEAN community building process, the Ministers underscored the need to expedite the implementation of the remaining action lines in the IAI Work Plan II. The Ministers looked forward to a successor document that is strategic, results-oriented and impactful, one that takes into consideration the needs of Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar and Viet Nam (CLMV) countries in the implementation of the ASEAN Community Vision 2025 and the three new Blueprints.

The Ministers highlighted the importance of enhanced connectivity as a critical enabler in the regional integration process. In this regard, the Ministers emphasised the need to expeditiously implement the identified measures in the Master Plan on ASEAN Connectivity (MPAC). The Ministers also called for strengthening coordination between relevant mechanisms especially in the implementation of multi-sectoral projects, and mobilising support from ASEAN Dialogue Partners, private sectors and other stakeholders including through the Public-Private Partnership (PPP) modality. With regard to the development of the ASEAN Connectivity post-2015 agenda, the Ministers agreed that the agenda should be in line with the ASEAN Community Vision 2025 and the three new Blueprints, with bold, visionary yet pragmatic and achievable measures for implementation.

| ASEAN Connectivity Coordinating Committee (ACCC) | |
|---|---|
| Established | 2011, meets at least two times a year with additional meetings as appropriate |
| Last Meeting | 1/2016 ACCC Meeting, 7-8 March 2016, Jakarta, Indonesia |
| Senior Officials | Permanent Representatives to ASEAN |

Pursuant to the adoption of the Master Plan on ASEAN Connectivity by ASEAN Leaders at the 17th ASEAN Summit in October 2010, the ASEAN Connectivity Coordinating Committee (ACCC) was established to coordinate and monitor the implementation of the Master Plan and report to the ASEAN Coordinating Council Ministers and the ASEAN Leaders the progress of its implementation.

The ACCC has met 17 times since its establishment in April 2011. It has developed and maintains an ASEAN Connectivity Scorecard that serves as a monitoring and evaluation tool for the implementation of MPAC. The ACCC has engaged the World Bank to improve the ASEAN Connectivity M&E framework through establishing indicators and undertaking impact assessments to gauge MPAC implementation.

On efforts to mobilise private sector resources, the ACCC and World Bank have finalised work on developing an ASEAN Public-Private Partnership (PPP) Programme which aims to establish a priority short list of connectivity projects that could be potentially implemented through PPP. The ACCC and OECD continue with their work on the ASEAN Risk Mitigation Instruments project to analyse and provide an information source of insurance and guarantee products to secure project revenue streams of ASEAN infrastructure PPPs against political and commercial risks. On 27 April 2016, the ACCC Chair has been invited to speak about ASEAN Connectivity and ASEAN's work on PPPs during the "Strengthening Global Infrastructure Connectivity Forum" held as a related event of the G20 Investment and Infrastructure Working Group (IIWG) in Singapore.

The 4th ACCC-National Coordinators Meeting was also held to discuss current and emerging challenges such as coordination in implementing the MPAC as well as possible ways to address the challenges.

To raise awareness and obtain stakeholders' perspectives of the post-2015 agenda for ASEAN Connectivity, the ACCC conducted the 6th Annual ASEAN Connectivity Symposium with the theme "The Connectivity Agenda for an Integrated ASEAN Community" in October 2015 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. The production of promotional videos and related website to enhance the reach of ASEAN Connectivity to its stakeholders is in progress.

The ACCC will formulate the Post-2015 Agenda for ASEAN Connectivity for adoption at the 28th ASEAN Summit in Lao PDR in September 2016.

| Committee of Permanent Representatives to ASEAN (CPR) | |
|--|--|
| Established | 2009, meets regularly each month |
| Last Meeting | 7/2016 CPR Meeting, 5 May 2016, Luang Prabang, Lao PDR |

The role of the CPR in the ASEAN community building process has become increasingly important, especially with the adoption of its revised Terms of Reference at the 17th Meeting of the ACC in 2015. The revised Terms of Reference provides the CPR with enhanced mandate in coordinating the work of ASEAN across the three pillars as well as in advancing ASEAN external relations.

The CPR has contributed to the implementation of various commemorative activities throughout 2015 to celebrate the establishment of the ASEAN Community such as the ASEAN Conference, ASEAN Day Grand Reception and ASEAN Peoples' Award. A number of outreach activities with different stakeholders were also conducted in 2015 to bring ASEAN closer to the peoples and external partners.

The CPR has further enhanced its coordinating portfolio through consultations with relevant ASEAN bodies dealing with cross-cutting issues, including with the AICHR and the ASEAN Commission on the Protection of the Rights of Women and Children (ACWC). The representation of the CPR in the Joint Consultative Meeting (JCM) as an ASEAN body would also enable the CPR to facilitate coordination on cross-cutting issues among the three pillars. To this end, the CPR is seeking to strengthen its institutional capacity, including through the secondment of officials from the AEC and ASCC pillars to their Permanent Missions in Jakarta.



Informal meeting between ASEAN CPR and EAS, 8 April 2016.

The CPR has served as a key focal point in implementing the recommendations of the High Level Task Force on Strengthening the ASEAN Secretariat and Reviewing the ASEAN Organs (HLTF). The CPR has completed various important deliverables in this respect, including the delineation and strengthening of the CPR's roles and responsibilities vis-à-vis other relevant bodies, the formulation of terms of reference of key ASEAN coordinating bodies such as the JCM and the APSC Council, and the strengthening of the ASEAN Secretariat.

The CPR has also played an active and important role in ASEAN external relations. In 2015, the CPR completed the formulation of the Plans of Action with Canada, China, India, Republic of Korea, New Zealand, and the United States for the period of 2016-2020. This year, the CPR will formulate the Plans of Action for ASEAN-Russia and ASEAN-UN relations. The CPR is also responsible for overseeing the implementation of these Plans of Action through regular engagement with Dialogue Partners under the framework of Joint Cooperation Committee (JCC) meetings and other ASEAN-led mechanisms.

The CPR is intensifying engagement with Ambassadors of Dialogue Partners and external parties accredited to ASEAN in Jakarta. As an example, the CPR is working with the Ambassadors of Pacific Alliance countries to formulate a framework for cooperation between the two organisations. Furthermore, as mandated by the Kuala Lumpur Declaration on the 10th Anniversary of the East Asia Summit, the CPR is in the process of establishing a regular mechanism for engagement between the CPR and the non-ASEAN EAS Ambassadors in Jakarta with a view to promoting effective implementation of the EAS Leaders' decisions.

Initiative for ASEAN Integration (IAI)

| | |
|------------------|---|
| Established | 2001, meets twice a year |
| Last Meeting | 48 th IAI Task Force, 4 April 2016, Jakarta, Indonesia |
| Senior Officials | IAI Task Force Working Group |

The IAI launched in 2000, helps ASEAN's newest Member States to implement ASEAN's commitments through capacity building and technical assistance with the aim of enhancing regional integration and narrowing the development gap.

As of 4 April 2016, 77 out of 182 Action lines representing 42.3% of the IAI Work Plan II have been implemented. A total of 371 projects amounting to US\$ 49.2 million were carried out with the support of ASEAN-6, Dialogue Partners and External Parties. The projects covered a wide range of areas, which include trade facilitation, tourism, climate change, tax administration, SME development, information and communication technology, capital market, education, human resource management, leadership strategies, English language skills, negotiation skills and ASEAN Community awareness raising. The implementation period of the IAI Work Plan II, which expired at the end of 2015, was extended until the Post-2015 IAI Work Plan is adopted by the ASEAN Leaders, which is expected to occur at the 28th ASEAN Summit in September 2016.

The formulation of the Post-2015 IAI Work Plan commenced in August 2015 with the support of the Government of Australia through the ASEAN-Australia Development Cooperation Program (AADCP) II. The

drafting process involved close engagement with all ASEAN Member States, especially Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar and Viet Nam (CLMV) as well as stakeholders through two regional workshops, national consultations in each CLMV country, individual discussions and a stakeholder's forum. The IAI Work Plan III (2016-2020) will form part of the ASEAN Vision 2025 and is expected to be endorsed by Leaders at the 28th ASEAN Summit in September 2016.

A three-year programme to support the participation of CLMV in the ASEAN Economic Community (AEC) in the areas of services and investment commenced in July 2015. The three-year programme supported by the Government of Germany through the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH is aimed at assisting CLMV to reduce barriers to trade in services and investment as well as implement

mutual recognition arrangements (MRAs) in tourism and nursing sectors. The first Programme Steering Committee meeting was held on 20 January 2016.

The 13th batch of the IAI Attachment Programme at the ASEAN Secretariat for Junior Diplomats of CLMV and the 2nd batch of Attachment Officers from CLMV for AEC and ASCC Involvement were successfully completed on 30 June 2015 and 1 February 2016, respectively. The new batch for both programmes comprising 12 junior government officers from CLMV commenced simultaneously on 10 May 2016. The one-year attachment programmes, supported by the Government of Japan, are aimed at enhancing the understanding of CLMV's government officers on regional issues as well as ASEAN's processes and relations with non-Members States.

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ASEAN SECRETARIAT'S OUTREACH ACTIVITIES

Launching the ASEAN Community

The launch of the ASEAN Community at the end of 2015 was both a milestone and a testimony of ASEAN's resilience and dynamism throughout a journey of nearly 50 years. With the establishment of the Community, ASEAN, through its Vision 2025, has embarked on a new phase of evolution focused on consolidating the gains and addressing the persistent and emerging challenges of the next decade to realise a rules-based, people-oriented, people-centred, peaceful, stable and resilient Community.

With anticipation and interest building among the ASEAN populace and those outside the region, the reach of the

ASEAN Secretariat's multi-dimensional communications platforms has also increased exponentially.

The Launch of a Milestone

As a prelude to the establishment of the ASEAN Community, ASEAN recognised 10 outstanding individuals/institutions that have made excellent contributions towards ASEAN community building. They were duly recognised at the 27th ASEAN Summit in Kuala Lumpur in the presence of ASEAN Leaders. The ASEAN Secretariat provided promotional and media support to this endeavor.

Multi-media show welcoming the ASEAN Community.



On 31 December 2015, the Member States simultaneously published a newspaper supplement in local newspapers to announce the launch of the ASEAN Community. The supplement was published in both English and respective national languages. The ASEAN Secretariat coordinated the production and publication of the supplement.

Four videos on the ASEAN Community and its three pillars, along with four Public Service Announcements were also produced and launched by the ASEAN Secretariat to commemorate the establishment of the Community. They were shared with the Member States

and widely promoted on social media. In addition, ASEAN Stickers were produced and made available worldwide on Blackberry Messenger.

Implementing the ASEAN Communication Master Plan (ACMP)

The implementation of the the ACMP continued to be a priority. "ASEAN Spotlight TV," a weekly, 30-minute programme to be aired in 10 Member States in local languages is ongoing. The first set of episodes are expected to be aired in June 2016.





H.E. Vice President Jusuf Kalla of Indonesia (middle) flanked by the Secretary-General of ASEAN Le Luong Minh, Foreign Minister of Indonesia Retno Marsudi, Jakarta Governor Basuki T Purnama and Deputy Secretary-General of ASEAN AKP Mochtan during ASEAN Day 2015.

To ensure that ASEAN messages are effectively conveyed to the ASEAN peoples, the ASEAN Secretariat convened a Spokespersons Training for the ASEAN Member States and ASEC staffs in May-July 2015. We also produced the ASEAN Resources Kit on the website and more than 1,700 photos taken from all ASEAN Member States on our Data Asset Management System.

Publications

At the end of 2015, 68 publications have been produced and distributed to ASEAN Member States, international organisations, institutions, exhibitions and visitors. For wider and easier outreach, these publications were also made available online for downloading. As of May 2016, an additional 16 publications were printed and disseminated.



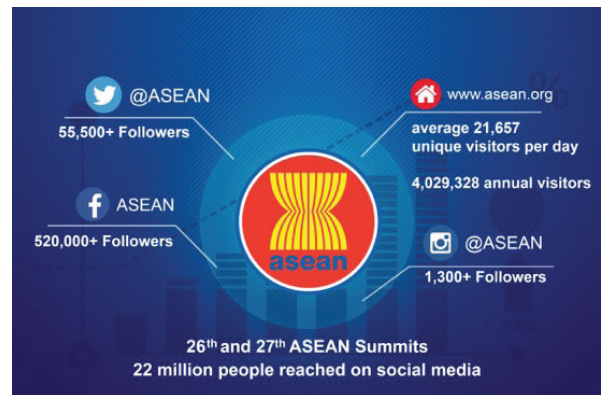
ASEAN partners' booths during the celebration of ASEAN Day.

There was also an increase in requests by ASEAN Member States, schools, NGOs, and international libraries for selected volumes from our collection of ASEAN publications in the last four years, to enhance the ASEAN content in their premises.

Public Outreach

The 48th ASEAN Day was successfully held in the ASEAN Secretariat on 10 August 2015. H.E. Vice President Jusuf Kalla of Indonesia graced the occasion as the Guest of Honor. Other VIP guests include cabinet ministers and the Governor of Jakarta. A total of over 400 guests from the diplomatic community, business leaders, youths and journalists from the region attended the event.

During the celebration, ASEAN Post presented the joint issue of the ASEAN Community stamps, which were produced by all ASEAN Member States. There were also exhibition booths set up by the ASEAN affiliated organisations, such as the ASEAN Foundation, ASEAN Centre for Energy (ACE), ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly (AIPA), ASEAN Coordinating Centre for



Proud citizens of ASEAN.



Young students learning about ASEAN.



Visitors enjoying the collection of art works at ASEAN Gallery.

Humanitarian Assistance on disaster management (AHA Centre) and ASEAN Business Advisory Council (ABAC).

Other outreach activities include the following:

- Welcomed over 3,000 visitors-comprising students, government officials, civil society representatives, diplomats, and parliamentarians from ASEAN Member States and other regions to the ASEAN Secretariat.
- Facilitated 50 media interviews resulting in more than 1,500 media reports highlighting key issues around ASEAN Community.
- Co-produced “ASEAN Today,” a monthly TV program of The Indonesia Channel shown in selected countries in the region.

Engaging Civil Society

As of June 2016, we received 43 applications of entities seeking to be associated with ASEAN. We continuously disseminate information on ASEAN instruments pertaining to the accreditation process to inform concerned parties and prepare them for their application.

For this period, 51 out of 78 entities associated with ASEAN submitted their summary of activities which illustrate how they support the ASEAN Community.



**ASEAN POLITICAL-SECURITY
COMMUNITY (APSC)**



Introduction

The APSC continues to provide the foundation for dialogue and cooperation so as to maintain and enhance peace, stability and security in the region. The APSC also provides the framework to pursue mutually beneficial relations with Dialogue Partners and other external parties, while maintaining ASEAN Centrality in the evolving regional architecture.

The period under review saw the seven years of implementation of the APSC Blueprint 2009-2015 come to an end with significant achievements made which have further deepened and expanded political and

security cooperation in ASEAN, as well as externally. Of notable importance has been the establishment and institutionalisation of new mechanisms in the APSC pillar which provide a more robust ASEAN political-security institutional framework, especially in areas such as defence and transnational crime. Although all the measures in the previous Blueprint have been addressed, many of them continue to be relevant and will continue to be acted upon in the new APSC Blueprint 2025 adopted in 2015. Hence, ASEAN will continue to enhance its capacity to respond to non-traditional security issues such as terrorism and violent

CEREMONY

OF

MINISTERS MEETING (AMM)

MALAYSIA 4 AUGUST 2015



ASEAN Foreign Ministers at the Opening Ceremony of the 48th AMM with H.E. PM Najib Tun Razak of Malaysia.

extremism, trafficking in persons and people smuggling, and humanitarian assistance and disaster management, among others.

The lessons learned from the implementation of the previous Blueprint have also highlighted the importance of managing and enhancing coordination and synergy on cross-cutting issues of cooperation, not only within the APSC but also across the three pillars at the regional and national levels. For example, in the area of human rights, the AICHR is implementing its work plan with a programmatic approach so as to support its efforts in mainstreaming human rights across the ASEAN Community. At the same time, efforts have also been initiated to put in place a robust monitoring and

assessment mechanism to focus on the impact of the activities undertaken through qualitative analysis.

In addition, there has been continuing consolidation and strengthening of the mechanisms within the APSC. The ASEAN Defence Ministers Meeting (ADMM)-Plus is now in its sixth year and has moved away from being a dialogue-oriented process to a more tangible and action-oriented cooperation. Meanwhile, the East Asia Summit (EAS) process has become further institutionalised, following the adoption of the Kuala Lumpur Declaration on the 10th Anniversary of the EAS last year. This leaders-led mechanism will continue to be further strengthened to address political, security and economic issues of common concern in order to promote peace,

security and stability in East Asia. Underpinning these mechanisms and frameworks is ASEAN Centrality, which will be further strengthened in all its dimensions to ensure ASEAN's central and leading role in the evolving regional architecture and as a respected partner in the global community. Towards this end, ASEAN continues to deepen its engagement with Dialogue Partners and other external parties to support integration efforts in the region while cooperating to address new and emerging challenges.

Looking ahead, upon the establishment of the ASEAN Community on 31 December 2015, and on the cusp of its 50th Anniversary in 2017, ASEAN will continue to be a global player in addressing regional and international issues of common concern, in line with the ASEAN Community Vision 2025.

| ASEAN Political-Security Community (APSC) Council | |
|--|--|
| Established | 2009, meets at least twice a year |
| Last Meeting | 13 th Meeting of the APSC Council, 20 November 2015, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia |

The 13th Meeting of the APSC Council on 20 November 2015 in Kuala Lumpur saw significant progress made in the implementation of the APSC Blueprint (2009-2015), with all 146 action lines having been addressed. Implementation of many action lines are ongoing and have been carried forward to the new APSC Blueprint 2025. The Council stressed the importance of enhancing policy coherence, coordination and cooperation among the various sectoral bodies under the APSC pillar in pursuit of the effective implementation of the APSC Blueprint 2025.

The Council emphasised the need to enhance the capacity of ASEAN sectoral bodies and ASEAN-led mechanisms to address existing and emerging security challenges in a timely and effective manner. The Council recognised significant efforts by the APSC sectoral bodies in this regard, including: (i) the agreement by the ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Transnational Crime (AMMTC) to meet annually from 2017 and to hold emergency ministerial sessions if necessary; (ii) the convening of the AMMTC special meetings on the Irregular Movement of Persons in the Southeast Asia

Region in July and on the Rise of Radicalisation and Violent Extremism in October 2015; (iii) preparations for the launch of the Direct Communications Link under the ADMM to help enhance inter-operability in emergency situations facing the region; (iv) the adoption of the ARF Work Plan on Security of and in the Use of Information and Communications Technologies; and (v) the endorsement of the ASEAN Position Statement reiterating ASEAN's zero-tolerance stance against drugs.

The Council emphasised the urgent need to enhance coordination and synergy on cross-cutting issues so as to avoid duplication and promote efficiency. In this regard, the Council welcomed the work of the Joint Task Force to promote synergy on humanitarian assistance and disaster relief (HADR) between relevant ASEAN bodies and mechanisms. In the same vein, the Council took note of efforts to enhance coordination between the ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights (AICHR) and other ASEAN bodies/mechanisms dealing with human rights. The Council urged that these good practices be sustained and applied in other cross-cutting issues.

The Council adopted its own Terms of Reference which would enable the Council to promote coordination and synergy within the APSC as well as across the three pillars for policy coherence and efficiency on cross-cutting issues. The Terms of Reference is a necessary and significant document to help ensure a comprehensive and holistic approach to ASEAN political-security cooperation under the coordinating purview of the APSC Council.

| ASEAN Foreign Ministers Meeting (AMM) | |
|--|--|
| Established | 1967, meets annually, with informal meetings and retreats in between |
| Last Meeting | AMM Retreat, 27 February 2016, Vientiane, Lao PDR |
| Senior Officials | ASEAN Senior Officials Meeting (ASEAN SOM) |

Three AMMs were convened during the period under review, namely the annual 48th AMM in August 2015, the Informal AMM (IAMM) in September 2015 and the AMM Retreat in February 2016.

The Ministers reiterated their commitment to advance the ASEAN community building process through the completion of the Roadmap for an ASEAN Community (2009-2025) and effective implementation of the ASEAN Community Vision 2025. The Ministers underscored that this would be pursued through strengthening ASEAN institutional capacity, improving ASEAN work processes, cross-sectoral/pillar coordination at the regional and national levels, and putting in place a robust monitoring and reporting system.

In 2015, the Ministers adopted the Revised Work Plan on Maintaining and Enhancing ASEAN Centrality which provides guiding principles as well as specific measures to preserve and promote ASEAN centrality amidst geo-strategic changes in the region. The Ministers recognised the need to continue to work closely with ASEAN's partners in various ASEAN-led mechanisms, including ASEAN Plus One, ASEAN Plus Three, the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF), ASEAN Defence Ministers Meeting (ADMM)-Plus and East Asia Summit (EAS), in order to safeguard peace, stability and security in the region.

The Ministers agreed to consolidate the evolving regional security architecture by promoting the effectiveness, efficiency and synergy of ASEAN and ASEAN-led mechanisms. It was agreed that investing in the improvement of the existing ASEAN-led mechanisms would be more productive than creating new models that may overlap with existing ones since they already serve as building blocks in the regional security architecture.

The Ministers agreed that ASEAN must have a strategic outlook and explore innovative ways in addressing the growing interest from external parties to engage with ASEAN in accordance with the Guidelines for ASEAN's External Relations. In order to enhance ASEAN institutional capacity in external relations, the Ministers agreed to a number of measures such as streamlining of ASEAN meetings towards greater effectiveness and efficiency, delineation of roles between relevant mechanisms, and strengthening of the ASEAN Secretariat.

The Ministers remain seriously concerned over recent and ongoing developments in the South China Sea. The Ministers reaffirmed their commitment to the maintenance of peace, stability, maritime security and freedom of navigation in and over-flight above the South China Sea. The Ministers called for peaceful settlement

of disputes with full respect for legal and diplomatic processes and in accordance with international law, including the 1982 United Nations on the Law of the Sea. The Ministers also emphasised the importance of non-militarisation and the exercise of self-restraint from actions which would complicate or escalate tensions. In this regard, the Ministers urged the full and effective implementation of the DOC in its entirety as well as the expeditious establishment of the Code of Conduct (COC).

The Ministers discussed other regional and international issues such as the situation in the Korean Peninsula and the threats of terrorism, radicalism and violent extremism, among others. Projecting common ASEAN positions on regional and global issues of common concern, the Ministers has issued various statements, including on the terrorist attacks in Paris (2015), Jakarta, Brussels and Lahore (2016) as well as on the nuclear test and rocket launch by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (2016).

| Commission on the Southeast Asia Nuclear Weapon-Free Zone (SEANWFZ Commission) | |
|---|---|
| Established | 1999, meets annually |
| Last Meeting | 3 August 2015, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia |
| Senior Officials | Executive Committee for the Commission on the Southeast Asia Nuclear Weapon-Free Zone (SEANWFZ ExCom) |

The SEANWFZ Commission meeting in Kuala Lumpur on 3 August 2015 reiterated that the preservation of Southeast Asia as a Nuclear Weapon-Free Zone is vital to the promotion of peace, stability and security to the region. In this regard, the Commission took note of the progress in the implementation of the SEANWFZ Plan of Action (2013-2017), especially accession by ASEAN Member States to multilateral conventions and agreements related to nuclear safeguards, safety and security. To date, nine ASEAN Member States have concluded Additional Protocols with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), five of which have completed the ratification process.

The Commission highlighted the importance of enhancing cooperation with relevant international and regional institutions which could contribute resources and expertise to strengthen ASEAN Member States' capacities in implementing the SEANWFZ Treaty and its Plan of Action. In this regard, the Commission welcomed ongoing efforts to formalise relations between ASEAN and the IAEA.

The Commission also welcomed the designation of the ASEAN Network of Regulatory Bodies on Atomic Energy (ASEANTOM) as an ASEAN body and a focal point to promote ASEAN-IAEA cooperation. The designation helped ensure the credibility and standing of ASEANTOM in promoting nuclear safeguards, safety and security in the region, as well as in engagement and cooperation with external partners. ASEANTOM has been undertaking various activities on nuclear safety and nuclear security as identified in its annual Action Plan.

The Commission took note of sustained efforts to promote the profile of the SEANWFZ Treaty in multilateral fora and international organisations. Starting from 2007, ASEAN has biennially tabled a resolution on the SEANWFZ Treaty to the First Committee of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) for adoption. The latest Resolution was adopted by the 70th Session of the UNGA in 2015, reiterating the importance of SEANWFZ in strengthening the security of States in the region and in contributing to international peace and security. ASEAN also submitted the Memorandum of Activities Related to the SEANWFZ Treaty and delivered the ASEAN Statement during the Ninth Review Conference of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) in May 2015. The Memorandum elaborated the steps taken by ASEAN to implement the SEANWFZ Treaty, thereby contributing to the global non-proliferation efforts and peaceful uses of nuclear energy.

The signing to the Protocol to the SEANWFZ Treaty by the Nuclear Weapon States (NWS) remains pending due to statements/reservations by some NWS. ASEAN will remain seized on this issue by maintaining consultations with NWS and continuing efforts to bridge the differences to resolve all outstanding issues in accordance with the objectives and principles of the SEANWFZ Treaty.

| ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting (ADMM) | |
|--|--|
| Established | 2006, meets annually with a retreat session in between |
| Last Meeting | 10 th ADMM, 25 May 2016, Vientiane, Lao PDR |
| Senior Officials | ASEAN Defence Senior Officials' Meeting (ADSOM) |

The ASEAN Defence Ministers met twice during the period under review, namely during the ADMM Retreat in November 2015 in Kuala Lumpur and the 10th ADMM in May 2016 in Vientiane. Over the last decade, the ADMM has made significant advances in building trust and confidence as well as in promoting practical cooperation among the ASEAN defence establishments.

The recent 10th ADMM adopted the Terms of Reference of the ASEAN Militaries Ready Group on HADR and that of the ASEAN Centre of Military Medicine (ACMM), both of which will contribute to the enhancement of civil-military coordination in HADR response thus strengthening the overall ASEAN HADR response. An early deliverable of the APSC Blueprint 2025 is the inauguration of the ACMM in Bangkok in early April 2016.

ASEAN Member States continued to show a strong commitment in implementing previously-agreed initiatives such as the ASEAN Defence Interaction Programme, the establishment of a Direct Communication Link in the ADMM Process, the Logistics Support Framework, the ASEAN Defence Industry Collaboration, and the ASEAN Peacekeeping Centres Network. The new Framework for the Implementation of the ASEAN Defence Industry Collaboration is now in place.

The ASEAN Defence Ministers along with their Plus-countries' counterparts further reaffirmed that practical cooperation and strategic dialogue on defence and security issues remain the key thrusts of the ADMM-Plus process when they met at the 3rd ADMM-Plus in November 2015 in Kuala Lumpur. In jointly addressing new regional security challenges based on shared commitments, the ASEAN Member States will work together with the Plus countries in the newly-established Experts' Working Group on Cyber Security in the ADMM-Plus process starting in 2017.



Women soldiers participate in keeping the territory safe and secure.

Cooperation undertaken in the six ADMM-Plus priority areas of maritime security, peacekeeping operations, military medicine, counterterrorism, humanitarian assistance and disaster management, and humanitarian mine action has shown remarkable progress. Two field training exercises (FTX) have been conducted this year alone, namely the ADMM-Plus Humanitarian Mine Action and Peacekeeping Operations FTX: Exercise Force 18 in March 2016 in Pune, India and the ADMM-Plus Maritime Security and Counterterrorism Exercise in Brunei Darussalam and Singapore in May. Work is gearing up towards two more exercises, namely the ADMM-Plus Military Medicine and HADR Field Training Exercise (AM-Hex 2016) in September 2016 in Thailand and the standalone ADMM-Plus Maritime Security Exercise Mahi Tangaroa in New Zealand in November 2016.

ASEAN Law Ministers' Meeting (ALAWMM)

| | |
|------------------|--|
| Established | 1986, meets once every three years. |
| Last Meeting | 9 th ALAWMM, 22 October 2015, Bali, Indonesia |
| Senior Officials | ASEAN Senior Law Officials Meeting (ASLOM) |

The 9th ALAWMM, which was held on 22 October 2015, discussed legal issues of common concern and interest among ASEAN Member States which supports ASEAN community-building and integration efforts, in particular, its agenda towards realising a rules-based community.

While the current cooperation programmes and activities under the purview of the ALAWMM have been reviewed to ensure their effective implementation, other proposed projects and activities, meant to enhance laws and legal cooperation are also being considered and/or developed in order to adequately support the ASEAN Community. In the area of ASEAN legal instruments designed to provide the legal framework from which ASEAN will combat transnational crimes and terrorism, the ALAWMM is encouraged by the full ratification by all



Proper check at the front gate of entry points.

ASEAN Member States of the Treaty of Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters, the conclusion of the ASEAN Convention Against Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, and the progress of the implementation of the ASEAN Convention on Counter-Terrorism. Work is also well under way towards the finalisation of the text of the Model ASEAN Extradition Treaty. ASEAN Member States will endeavour to make the extradition mechanism available between them, taking into consideration the principles set out in the soon-to-be Model ASEAN Extradition Treaty and, where appropriate, the possibility for a legally-binding ASEAN Extradition Treaty.

Under the cooperation programme on strengthening the legal and institutional framework of ASEAN initiated by the ALAWMM, judiciaries in the ASEAN Member States have shared best practices and exchanged views on judicial matters of common interest. This has been done in anticipation of the ASEAN Community 2015.

The recent establishment of the ASEAN Chief Justices Meeting, which was renamed as the Council of the ASEAN Chief Justices at their 4th Meeting held on 1 April 2016 in Ho Chi Minh City, Viet Nam, was a landmark development in ASEAN in the area of judicial cooperation. Work is also under way to formalise the Council of ASEAN Chief Justices to be an entity associated with ASEAN under Annex 2 of the ASEAN Charter.

With the adoption of the ASEAN Community Vision 2025, the ALAWMM has pledged its continuous support and commitment to contribute more to the ASEAN Community in particular in the area of law and legal cooperation. The 10th ALAWMM Meeting is scheduled to be held in 2018 in Lao PDR.

| ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Transnational Crime (AMMTC) | |
|---|---|
| Established | 1997, meets biennially |
| Last Meeting | 10 th AMMTC, 29 September 2015, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia |
| Senior Officials | ASEAN Senior Officials Meeting on Transnational Crime (SOMTC) Directors-General of Immigration Departments and Heads of Consular Affairs Division of the Ministries of Foreign Affairs (DGICM) |

In the period under review, the ASEAN Ministers responsible for transnational crime met at the Emergency ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Transnational Crime (EAMMTC) Concerning Irregular Movement of Persons in the Southeast Asia Region in July 2015, the 10th AMMTC in September 2015 and the Special ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on the Rise of Radicalisation and Violent Extremism (SAMMRRVE) in Kuala Lumpur in October 2015. Overall, the AMMTC continues to consolidate their ongoing initiatives while expanding into new areas of cooperation in responding to emerging issues.

At the 10th AMMTC, the Ministers adopted the Kuala Lumpur Declaration in Combating Transnational Crime which outlined key initiatives in enhancing ASEAN's efforts to keep up with new challenges in transnational crime including to meet on an annual basis beginning 2017. Recognising the gravity of illicit trafficking of wildlife and timber, and people smuggling, the Ministers agreed to include these new areas under its purview.

As a continuation of its mandate to assist the AMMTC, the SOMTC reviewed the 2013-2015 Work Programme to Implement the ASEAN Plan of Action to Combat Transnational Crime and adopted the new Work Programme for 2016-2018.

Meanwhile, the SAMMRRVE served as a platform for the ASEAN Member States to exchange views and best practices in handling issues of radicalisation, violent extremism and other emerging threats posed by foreign terrorist fighters in the region.

A key milestone in ASEAN's efforts in addressing transnational crime, particularly on trafficking in persons, was the signing of the ACTIP by the ASEAN Leaders at the 27th ASEAN Summit. Cambodia and Singapore have deposited their respective Instruments of Ratification for the ACTIP with the Secretary-General of ASEAN.

Moving ahead, ASEAN continues to uphold its commitment to enhance its capacity to address non-traditional security issues effectively in a timely manner.

| ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Drug Matters (AMMD) | |
|---|---|
| Established | 2015, meets biennially beginning 2016 |
| Last Meeting | 4 th AMMD, 29 October 2015, Langkawi, Malaysia |
| Senior Officials | ASEAN Senior Officials Meeting on Drug Matters (ASOD) |

To provide political impetus to ASEAN cooperation on drug matters, the ASEAN Leaders at the 26th ASEAN Summit welcomed the institutionalisation of the AMMD. The AMMD, which has been designated as an ASEAN Body under Annex 1 of the ASEAN Charter, will meet biennially beginning 2016.

In the period under review, the Ministers convened their fourth meeting in Langkawi where they endorsed the ASEAN Position Statement which reiterated ASEAN's aspirations and commitment to a zero-tolerance stance against drugs. The Statements were delivered at the 59th Commission on Narcotic Drugs (CND) Special Segment on the preparations for the Special Session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGASS) held in Vienna, Austria on 15 March 2016; and at the UNGASS on 19 April 2016 in New York. The Statements highlighted ASEAN's commitment to a drug-free vision, so as to provide the people and community of ASEAN a society free from drug abuse and its ill-effects.

The Ministers also noted the Drug Free ASEAN 2015: Evaluation and Recommendations Post-2015 Report and agreed to utilise the recommendations from the Report as references in developing the post-2015 ASOD Work Plan. The new Work Plan which is currently being formulated aims to provide policy guidelines as well as

proposed activities ranging from preventive education, treatment and rehabilitation, law enforcement, research, alternative development, and extra-regional cooperation to illicit drug control activities and mitigating its negative effects on society.

ASEAN has continued to put in place regional mechanisms to enhance efforts to combat the drug problem. Two important initiatives are the establishment of the ASEAN Airport Interdiction Task Force (AAITF) and the ASEAN-Narcotics Coordination Centre (ASEAN-NARCO). These mechanisms assist anti-drug enforcement officers in ensuring regional trade routes are not exploited for illicit purposes. The next step is to expand this regional collaborative effort to the maritime domain, namely to seaports.

| ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) | |
|-----------------------------------|---|
| Established | 1994, meets annually |
| Last Meeting | 22 nd ARF, 6 August 2015, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia |
| Senior Officials | ARF Senior Officials Meeting (ARF SOM) |

In the 2015-2016 inter-sessional year, confidence building measures continued to progress well in the ARF with a total of thirty initiatives implemented. The scope of issues addressed include existing and emerging non-traditional security threats such as nuclear non-proliferation, chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear (CBRN) risk mitigation, support for victims of terrorism, cyber security, space security and the cross-border movement of criminals. Other initiatives include maritime safety, marine environment protection, illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing, environmentally-friendly shipping and urban emergency rescue.

There has also been continued commitment and determination in developing preventive diplomacy tools and expertise in the ARF for the period under review. To-date, a series of seminars and training courses on preventive diplomacy and mediation have been implemented focusing on the tools and mechanisms for early warning, mediation, and preventive diplomacy in the region and on developing participants' skills and knowledge in negotiation and mediation.

The region's commitment to work towards marine environmental protection was reaffirmed through the issuance of the ARF Ministerial Statement on Strengthening Cooperation on Marine Environmental Protection and Conservation. The increasing vulnerability of ARF participants to cyber security had also prompted the Forum to adopt the new ARF Work Plan on Security in the Use of Information and Communications Technologies.

Alongside this development, the ARF continues interaction among the defence officials through the existing ARF Defence Officials' Dialogue, the ARF Security Policy Conference and the Heads of Defence Universities/Colleges/Institutions Meeting. This interaction complements the work of the ADMM-Plus.

In line with ASEAN's endeavour to enhance information sharing on cross-cutting issues, briefings by other sectoral bodies on relevant issues has been a regular feature in many of the ARF meetings. In addition, the inter-sessional year 2015-2016 has witnessed the highest number of contributions to the ARF Annual Security Outlook since its inception, with nineteen submissions.

Looking ahead, the ARF will continue to advance its confidence-building measures by exploring cooperation on emerging security issues, while at the same time making progress towards developing preventive diplomacy that will contribute to regional peace and security.

| ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights (AICHR) | |
|---|--|
| Established | 2009, at least three meetings a year with additional meetings when necessary |
| Last Meeting | 21 st Meeting of the AICHR, 5-9 April 2016, Jakarta, Indonesia |

The AICHR has commenced its second Five-Year Work Plan 2016-2020, which was endorsed by the ASEAN Foreign Ministers' Meeting (AMM) in August 2015. The Work Plan is to be implemented in a programmatic approach so as to support the AICHR's efforts in mainstreaming human rights across all pillars of ASEAN.



Maritime security protects and keeps the region safe.

The AICHR has also regularised some of its activities into annual events such as the AICHR Youth Debate on human rights which aims to engender human rights awareness among the youth of ASEAN.

In October 2015 the AICHR and three ASEAN bodies dealing with human rights, namely, the ACWC, the ASEAN Committee on Women (ACW) and the ASEAN Committee on the Implementation of the ASEAN Declaration on the Protection and Promotion of Migrant Workers (ACMW) participated in the first ASEAN-EU Policy Dialogue on Human Rights in Brussels. The Dialogue allowed for an open and constructive exchange on themes of common interest and recent human rights developments in the EU and in ASEAN, and to explore potential areas for bilateral and multilateral cooperation on human rights.

During the 19th Meeting of the AICHR in November 2015, five Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) were granted Consultative Relationship with the operationalisation of the Guidelines on the AICHR's Relations with Civil Society Organisations. The AICHR aims to establish an

enabling environment for meaningful and constructive engagement with CSOs and will consider more applications at its next sitting.

At the 20th Meeting of the AICHR in February 2016, the AICHR welcomed eight new Representatives for the term 2016 to 2018. The AICHR convened the Workshop on Transition between the AICHR Representatives 2013-2015 and the AICHR Representatives 2016-2018 to foster smooth continuation of the AICHR's work and to allow the Representatives to share and discuss challenges and emerging issues on human rights in ASEAN. Meanwhile, at its 21st Meeting, the AICHR had its annual interface with the CPR and the Secretary-General of ASEAN. The Meeting discussed ways to enhance cooperation and coordination in light of the importance to create synergy and coherence in human rights development in ASEAN. The AICHR intends to enhance their engagement with more Dialogue Partners on human rights activities. The AICHR also agreed to grant Consultative Relationship to six CSOs at this meeting.

The image features a solid yellow background. In the upper center, the text "ASEAN ECONOMIC COMMUNITY (AEC)" is written in white, bold, uppercase letters. Below the text, there are several decorative, wavy, curved lines in various shades of yellow and white, creating a dynamic, flowing effect that transitions from the yellow background into the white background at the bottom of the page.

ASEAN ECONOMIC COMMUNITY (AEC)

Introduction

ASEAN's economic growth remained robust at an estimated 4.5%, compared to the global growth estimate of just 3.1% in 2015. Total trade in the region continued to be strong at US\$2.28 trillion in 2015.¹

The ASEAN Economic Community (AEC) was formally established on 31 December 2015 as part of the ASEAN Community. Near-completion of the implementation of measures under the AEC Blueprint 2015 has been

achieved and a firm commitment has been made to prioritise the remaining measures in 2016, as stated in the AEC Blueprint 2025.

Some of the high-priority measures that were completed in 2015 included the signing of the Protocol on the Legal Framework to Implement the ASEAN Single Window (PLF); completion of the 9th Package of Commitments under the ASEAN Framework Agreement on Services

Energy to support industry.



(AFAS); the enactment of competition laws in nine Member States beyond the initial target of seven; and the harmonisation of all technical requirements under the ASEAN Guidelines on Traditional Medicines and Health Supplements.

The formal establishment of the AEC in 2015 marked the beginning of ASEAN's journey as an economic community. Moving forward, the AEC will need to

maneuver through global uncertainties, be more resilient, and continuously maintain relevance in an evolving global economy. The AEC Blueprint 2025 was therefore adopted at the 27th ASEAN Summit, as part of the to guide ASEAN economic integration from 2016 to 2025.

1 ASEAN Statistic, preliminary data as of 10 June 2016



Under the new Blueprint, the AEC by 2025 is envisaged to have the following characteristics:

- (a) A Highly Integrated and Cohesive Economy;
- (b) A Competitive, Innovative, and Dynamic ASEAN;
- (c) Enhanced Connectivity and Sectoral Cooperation;
- (d) A Resilient, Inclusive and People-Oriented, People-Centred ASEAN; and
- (e) A Global ASEAN

The new Blueprint involves not only further deepening of integration areas under AEC Blueprint 2015 but also new focus areas in response to global developments and to ensure a forward looking economic integration agenda in the region.

It adopts a stronger and renewed emphasis on cross-sectoral integration and cooperation, paying special focus to cross-cutting issues. Some of the cross-cutting elements included in the new Blueprint are Global Value Chains, Productivity Growth and Innovation, Sustainable Economic Development, as well as Global Megatrends and Emerging Trade-related Issues.

In trade, having virtually eliminated intra-ASEAN tariffs, the Community is making concrete progress in trade facilitation, as well as addressing Non-Tariff Barriers (NTBs) and the barrier effects of Non-Tariff Measures (NTMs). Some efforts to this end included the revival of the ASEAN Trade Facilitation Joint Consultative Committee (ATF-JCC), progress towards the full operation of the ASEAN Single Window and development of the ASEAN Trade Repository, as well as the establishment of the ASEAN Solutions for Investments, Services and Trade (ASSIST) for full operation in 2016.

To ensure a participatory and consultative regional agenda, stakeholder engagement will be fostered in line with the objective of an inclusive, people-oriented, and people-centered ASEAN. Strategic measures will be pursued in public-private partnerships, and enhancing the role of the private sector and other stakeholders.

As an active and increasingly significant player in the global economy, the region would further strengthen economic and trade relations with its existing and future FTA partners and other non-FTA dialogue partners. More proactive engagement with other regional and global partners and institutions will also be undertaken

to uphold ASEAN centrality and give a stronger ASEAN voice and visibility.

Key deliverables for the rest of 2016, in addition to the completion of the remaining AEC 2015 measures, include the development of an enhanced monitoring and evaluation framework for the AEC Blueprint 2025.

| ASEAN Economic Community (AEC) Council | |
|---|---|
| Established | 2009, meets twice a year |
| Last Meeting | 14 th Meeting of the AEC Council, 20 November 2015, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia |

As the principal body accountable for the overall implementation and monitoring of the strategic measures in the AEC Blueprint, the work of the AEC Council has been focused on ensuring that effective mechanisms for the new Blueprint are in place.

Strategic measures in the AEC Blueprint 2025 will be operationalised through AEC sectoral work plans. As such, the AEC council at its 14th Meeting in November 2015, tasked all AEC sectoral bodies to complete their respective sectoral work plans in the first quarter of 2016 for the AEC Council's endorsement.

Sectoral work plans to detail and operationalise the strategic measures of the AEC Blueprint 2025 have also been developed, a number of which have already been made publicly available at the time of writing.

Taking into account lessons learned from the AEC 2015 Scorecard, an enhanced monitoring framework will be utilised in compliance/implementation monitoring as well as outcomes monitoring and impact assessment, supported by a strong and sustainable ASEAN Community Statistical System (ACSS).

Initial discussions and decisions from the 14th AEC Council meeting were followed through by the Special Meeting of the Committee of the Whole (CoW) in January 2016, ASEAN Economic Ministers' Retreat in March 2016 and Senior Economic Official Meetings (SEOM) in January and April 2016, respectively. Relevant work on developing an enhanced monitoring framework is underway, including the identification of measurable

sectoral key performance indicators (KPIs), and the development of a corresponding Guide, to complement the sectoral work plans for outcomes monitoring, as well as the first annual prioritisation of measures for compliance-monitoring.

Systematic dissemination of information on the implementation and impact of the AEC Blueprint is also recognised as a critical activity to ensure awareness and participation among stakeholders. In its report to Leaders in November 2015, the AEC Council noted two outputs from economic integration monitoring and AEC outreach efforts. First is a reference document targeted at the general public, titled “A Blueprint for Growth; the AEC 2015: Progress and Key Achievements,” which includes information on the overall implementation of the AEC Scorecard and success stories from across the AMS. Second is the ASEAN Integration Report (AIR) 2015, a comprehensive analytical report containing quantitative and qualitative assessment of progress and impact of implementation of the AEC Blueprint 2015 since its adoption in 2007. The AIR is intended to be published periodically, forming part of the enhanced monitoring framework of the AEC Blueprint 2025 as well.

ASEAN Economic Ministers’ Meeting (AEM)

| | |
|------------------|--|
| Established | 2009, meets annually with informal meeting and/or retreat in between |
| Last Meeting | 22 nd AEM Retreat, 2-3 March 2016, Chiang Mai, Thailand |
| Senior Officials | Senior Economic Officials Meeting (SEOM) |

The 47th AEM noted the near-doubling of ASEAN collective GDP and average GDP per capita between 2007 (when the AEC Blueprint 2015 was adopted) and 2014. Strong growth in ASEAN’s exports, as well as the record level of total foreign direct investment inflows to the region in 2014, was also noted.

The AEM underscored the importance of stakeholder awareness and understanding of the AEC to realise its benefits, and tasked senior officials to step up communication efforts, which would be carried through under the AEC Blueprint 2025. The AEM also acknowledged technical assistance from dialogue partners and external parties, including on trade in goods, services, investment, competition policy, consumer protection, SMEs, statistics, agriculture and narrowing the development gap.



Group photo at the 47th ASEAN Economic Ministers’ Meeting.

At their 22nd Retreat, the AEM endorsed the priority deliverables for Lao PDR's ASEAN Chairmanship, and provided guidance on the way forward for the unimplemented AEC 2015 measures.

The AEM agreed it is incumbent upon the sectoral bodies under their purview to finalise their sectoral workplans and to expedite the identification of outcomes-level key performance indicators (KPIs) as inputs to the AEC Blueprint 2025 monitoring framework. For compliance-monitoring, sectoral bodies were also tasked to submit prioritised measures on an annual basis to the Committee of the Whole (CoW), as well as urged all sectoral bodies to work towards the implementation of measures prioritised for 2016.

Trade in Services

Trade in services liberalisation remains high on the ASEAN agenda. The 9th Package of Commitments under the ASEAN Framework Agreement on Services (AFAS) was finalised on 27 November 2015 in Makati City, Philippines. It reflects yet another milestone in services commitments made by ASEAN Member States to-date, with commitments in 104 services subsectors, allowing at least 51% foreign ownership, subject to maximum 15% flexibility. The work on the 10th AFAS Package, providing for an even greater level of liberalisation is in progress and is expected to be completed by 2017.

The 9th Package of Commitments of Air Transport Services under AFAS was signed at the 21st ASEAN Transport Ministers Meeting in November 2015 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia to further liberalise air transport ancillary services in ASEAN. In addition, the *ad referendum* signing of the 6th Package of Financial Services Commitments under AFAS by the ASEAN Finance Ministers was completed in March 2015. This 6th Package of Financial Services contains the enabling provision for the implementation of the ASEAN Banking Integration Framework (ABIF) allowing any two ASEAN countries to enter into reciprocal bilateral agreements to provide Qualified ASEAN Banks (QABs) with greater market access and operational flexibilities consistent with those of domestic banks in the respective host countries.

An *ASEAN Forum on Regional Integration in Services in ASEAN Countries* was co-organised by the ASEAN Secretariat, Asian Development Bank Institute (ADBI), and the World Bank, with support from the ASEAN-

Australia Development Cooperation Programme Phase II (AADCP II) on 18-19 June 2015 in Jakarta, Indonesia. The Forum facilitated substantive discussions on services trade and integration issues to contribute to the on-going discussions on the strengthening of the ASEAN's services negotiations framework. The *ASEAN Services Integration Report (ASIR)*, jointly prepared by the ASEAN Secretariat and the World Bank, was one of the main sources of the discussions.

In facilitating the movement of skilled labour following the endorsement of the *ASEAN Qualification Reference Framework (AQRF)* by the ASEAN Economic, Education and Labour Ministers, ASEAN will be entering into the implementation phase (2016-2018) in which participating AMS will begin the referencing of their respective National Qualification Frameworks (NQF) to the AQRF. AQRF supports recognition of qualification, promotes quality of education and learning, facilitate labour mobility, and addresses all education and training, including formal, non-formal and informal learning. AQRF is implemented by AMS on a voluntary basis.

Small Medium Enterprises (SMEs)

Under the ASEAN Strategic Action Plan for SME Development (2010-2015) and the AEC Blueprint 2015, SME work continues to focus on initiatives related to access to information, finance, markets, technology and human capital development.

In the area of access to information, additional AEC information materials will focus on the ASEAN Single Window and the Establishment of Businesses in ASEAN. This was complemented by the development of the enhanced SME Service Portal with features containing a web-based ASEAN SME services and a virtual network of SME service centres/ASEAN service desks. The 1st Access to Finance Roundtable was also held to exchange best practices on the framework for enhancing access to finance for SMEs. In supporting market access, several workshops were undertaken, focusing on integrating SMEs into the value chain in the coffee, cosmetics and personal care products, automotive, digital economy and electronics sector. ASEAN also stepped up its work on human capital development through the establishment of the ASEAN Online SME Academy which will be launched in mid-2016.

In preparation for the post-2015 AEC, the ASEAN Strategic Action Plan for SME Development 2016-2025



Supporting the SMEs.

(SAPSMED 2025) was launched at the sidelines of the 27th ASEAN Summit, covering five strategic goals: (i) promote technology, productive and innovation; (ii) increase access to finance; (iii) enhance market access and internationalisation; (iv) enhance the policy and regulatory environment; and (v) promote entrepreneurship and human capital development.

In January 2016, SEOM approved the change in name of the ASEAN SME Agencies Working Group (SMEWG) to the ASEAN Coordinating Committee on Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (ACCMSME) to better reflect the expanded scope of work to cover micro-enterprises and to reflect the need to expand the composition of the committee to include representatives from other areas beside the MSME officials.

Consumer Protection

ASEAN consumer protection initiatives under the ASEAN Committee on Consumer Protection (ACCP) remained focused on building core competencies of consumer protection officials and regional advocacy activities. Six comprehensive training modules were developed under the Strengthening the Technical Competency of Consumer Protection Agencies, which aims to enhance the institutional capacity of consumer protection-related agencies and build a cadre of consumer protection trainers in the six areas of 1) Product safety and labelling; 2) Phone and internet services, and e-commerce; 3) Consumer credit and banking; 4) Environment; 5) Healthcare services; and 6) Professional services.

In addition, Volume II of the 'Consumer Protection Policy Digest and Case Studies: A Policy Guide', was published, which covered pertinent topics including product liability legislation, consumer redress, justice and sustainable consumption. The 2nd ASEAN Consumer Protection Conference which was held from 14-15 December 2016 in Bangkok, Thailand, served as a platform to enhance lesson-sharing processes and develop networks between AMS and other relevant stakeholders based on these materials.

On advocacy initiatives, the ACCP concluded a project on developing the Public Awareness Models for Consumer Protection and Guidelines, which serves to support a systematic approach towards consumer education in ASEAN. The ACCP website (www.aseanconsumers.org) was revamped, serving as one-stop point of reference containing information on ASEAN consumer protection developments.

Moving forward, the ASEAN Strategic Action Plan for Consumer Protection (2016-2025) (ASAPCP) was finalised. It contains four strategic goals which will chart the course of the work of the ACCP for the next 10 years. The four strategic goals of ASAPCP 2025 are: (i) establish a common ASEAN consumer protection framework; (ii) ensure a common level of consumer empowerment and protection; (iii) ensure a high level of consumer confidence in the AEC and cross-border commercial transactions; and (iv) integrate consumer concerns into all ASEAN policies.

Competition Policy and Law

In line with efforts to strengthen the competition regulatory framework, national competition laws were introduced by two additional ASEAN Member States (AMS), namely Lao PDR and the Philippines, bringing to a total of 9 AMS with competition laws in the region. Cambodia is the only remaining AMS which has yet to enact competition law.

Institutional capacity-building were also enhanced to effectively implement the law, with various capacity building activities. These included a number of in-country and regional investigation skills training and workshops and secondments and placements of officials with the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission and the New Zealand Commerce Commission.

To continue to foster a competition-aware region, various activities were undertaken and materials developed. These included the newly revamped AEGC Website (www.aseancompetition.org) and an ASEAN Toolkit for Competition Advocacy in ASEAN which was showcased at the International Competition Conference (ICN) in Singapore in April 2016. A set of ASEAN Competition Commemorative Materials were also developed.

Moving forward, the AEGC finalised the ASEAN Competition Action Plan 2025 (ACAP 2025), which will guide the work on competition under the AEC over the next ten years. The goals of the ACAP 2025 are: effective competition regimes are established in all ASEAN member states; capacities of competition-related agencies in AMS are strengthened to effectively implement competition law; regional cooperation arrangements on competition law are in place; a competition-aware ASEAN region is fostered; and greater harmonisation of competition policy and law in ASEAN is achieved.

Intellectual Property Rights

The ASEAN Patent Examination Cooperation (ASPEC) went online in August 2015 and ASPEC requests can now be made electronically. ASPEC is a regional patent work-sharing programme that is aimed to reduce duplication of search and examination work and allow for more efficient registration of patents in the region.

The ASEAN TMClass and ASEAN Designview are now available online free of charge. ASEAN TMClass is a

consultation tool that allows public access to a database of terms accepted by the participating AMS IPOs as suitable to identify goods and services for the purpose of registration of trade marks. ASEAN Designview serves as an information platform to make ASEAN designs data easily available to stakeholders. The database on geographical indications (GIs) was launched to serve as a gateway to all registered GIs in ASEAN, making it possible to explore the GI landscape in the region.

Lao PDR deposited its instrument of accession to the Madrid Protocol in December 2015, becoming the fifth AMS to become a party to the Madrid Protocol. Trainings for examiners, IP attorneys and business organisations were organised in 2015 to support the accession initiatives of the remaining AMS.

Patent training programmes were implemented in line with the goal of enabling AMS IP Offices to develop internal capacities based on a two-pronged methodology: (i) develop skills using the “train the trainers” approach; and (ii) develop training curriculum and material based on a training assessment process.

Strategic steps aimed at the adoption of the Protocol for the Operation of the ASEAN Technology and Innovation Support Centres Network (ASEAN TISC Network) were undertaken to address existing gaps and challenges in the effective use of the IP system, particularly by those in the invention and innovation sectors.

The ASEAN IPR Action Plan 2016-2025 was finalised by the ASEAN Working Group on Intellectual Property Cooperation (AWGIPC) in order to support, amongst others, collaborative programmes with the science and technology sector, research and development institutes and universities to improve the creation, protection and management of IPs in ASEAN. It will focus on adoption of modern practices and infrastructure to enable the AMS IPOs to provide more efficient and effective services to IP stakeholders.

The intellectual property diagnostics, a key initiative in the ASEAN IPR Action Plan 2016-2025, commenced in early 2016 with expert missions being undertaken in participating AMS. It is envisaged to assist the AMS IPOs in reassessing their legal and institutional frameworks based on identified needs and resource gaps and business models.

Statistical Cooperation

The Fifth Session of the ACSS Committee adopted the ACSS Strategic Plan 2016-2025 in November 2015, reaffirming its mission to produce relevant, timely and comparable statistics in support of the ASEAN Community.

The Broad Framework for the Sustainable Development of ASEAN Statistics, covering regional cooperation in statistical collection, production and dissemination, is being reviewed to incorporate elements from the ASEAN Community Blueprint 2025. The System of National Accounts Forum was also reconvened to further enhance data provision, quality and accessibility of ASEAN statistics including the ASEAN Statistical Indicators Consolidated Template, ACSS Code of Practice, and the ACSS Communication Strategy. To promote efficiency in information flow in the ACSS, the national statistical offices (NSOs) of the Philippines and Myanmar have piloted a project on cascading the outputs and outcomes of ACSS meetings.

Continuous effort is required to enhance statistical capacity of AMS and the ASEAN Secretariat in meeting diverse and more detailed demands for comparable and timely regional statistics as ASEAN integration deepens and the effective integration monitoring becomes more paramount. Eight qualified staff from the NSOs of

Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar and Viet Nam (CLMV) was sponsored into a Master's Programme in Statistics under the EU-COMPASS project. Cooperation to further the ASEAN-Help-ASEAN initiative has received strong support from other AMS to assist the CLMV countries in specific areas of statistical priority.

Public-Private Sector Engagement

Engagement with the private sector continues to be a cornerstone of the development of the ASEAN Economic Community. The feedback from the business community and the support provided by the private sector continues to help drive the ASEAN integration process.

The ASEAN Business Advisory Council (ASEAN-BAC) is leading in providing recommendations into the ASEAN process and in coordinating inputs from the nine ASEAN Plus 1 business councils, and maintaining working relationships with the 66 business entities interacting with the various ASEAN sectoral groups.

In this respect, high-level engagement with the private sector continues to be undertaken. Examples include the ASEAN-BAC Dialogue with ASEAN Leaders at the 26th ASEAN Summit in April 2015 and the 13th ASEAN-BAC Consultations with ASEAN Economic Ministers on 25 August 2015. Dialogues between the AEM and the

Utilising technology in manufacturing sector.



other ASEAN Councils also took place at the side-lines of the 47th AEM, including the US-ASEAN Business Council, Canada-ASEAN Business Council and the India-ASEAN Business Councils. The 8th Dialogue between the Secretary-General of ASEAN with the Federation of Japanese Chamber of Commerce and Industry in ASEAN (FJCCIA) was held in August 2015. Consultations with the EU-ASEAN Business Council were held at the sidelines of the AEM Retreat in February 2016. Among the issues highlighted by the business sector were customs procedures, rules of origin, services liberalisation and e-commerce regulations. The issues of labour mobility including the ASEAN Business Travel Card were re-visited.

External Economic Relations

ASEAN continues to make steady progress towards integrating the region into the global economy through various Free Trade Areas (FTAs) and Comprehensive Economic Partnership (CEP). These FTAs and CEP have strengthened ASEAN's position as an open and inclusive economic region. Efforts are being made to upgrade and ensure effective implementation of the existing ASEAN Plus One FTAs/CEP, aiming at making them remain modern, comprehensive, high-quality and more responsive to the needs of businesses in the region.

With regard to the ASEAN-China FTA, the Protocol to Amend the Framework Agreement on Comprehensive Economic Co-operation and Certain Agreements Thereunder (the ACFTA Upgrading Protocol) was signed by the Ministers on 21 November 2015. Following the ratifications from Viet Nam and China, the Protocol will enter into force on 1 July 2016. The Protocol aims at further facilitating trade through more transparent customs procedures and trade facilitation provisions including more trade facilitative and user friendly rules of origin, strengthening economic cooperation, and enhancing investment promotion and facilitation. As provided in the ACFTA Upgrading Protocol, the commencement of negotiation of the Future Work Programme will be discussed in 2016. Under the ASEAN-Japan CEP (AJCEP), Chapters on Trade in Services and Movement of Natural Persons have been concluded, while the negotiations on investment have been substantially concluded. Efforts are being intensified to incorporate the outcomes of these negotiations into the AJCEP Agreement.

The Third Protocol to Amend the ASEAN-Korea Trade in Goods Agreement was signed by the Ministers on 22 November 2015, and entered into force in early 2016. The Third Protocol aims at boosting bilateral trade by introducing new commitments on customs procedures and trade facilitation and including Parties' line-by-line Tariff Reduction Schedules. Parties are now working toward further liberalisation of sensitive products in line with the modality endorsed by the Ministers in August 2015.

With regard to the ASEAN-India FTA, the Trade in Services and Investment Agreements have entered into force, and the review of ASEAN-India Trade in Goods Agreement has commenced in April 2016, based on the scope of the review endorsed by the Ministers in August 2015. Under ASEAN-Australia-New Zealand FTA (AANZFTA), the First Protocol to Amend the Agreement Establishing the AANZFTA, signed by the Ministers in August 2014, has also entered into force.

Efforts have also been made to further strengthen ASEAN's economic partnerships with its non-FTA Dialogue Partners (DPs) by developing new the Trade and Investment Work Programmes/Plans with these DPs, including: (i) the 2015-2016 ASEAN-EU Trade and Investment Work Programme (ii) the 2016-2020 Work Plan to implement the ASEAN-Canada Joint Declaration on Trade and Investment; (iii) the Post-2015 ASEAN-Russia Trade and Investment Cooperation Work Programme.

On ASEAN-US trade and economic relations, the ASEAN Economic Ministers held the third roadshow to the US on 17-18 February 2016.

With regard to ASEAN-Hong Kong FTA negotiations, six rounds have been conducted since July 2014, with the seventh round held on 31 May-2 June 2016 in Hong Kong. Progress has been made with the finalisation of several chapters of the Agreement, including Customs Procedures and Trade Facilitation (CPTF), Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (SPS), Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT), Trade Remedies, and Economic and Technical Cooperation. The negotiations are expected to be completed in 2016.

The RCEP negotiations continued to progress since the launch by the Leaders on 20 November 2012 in Phnom Penh, Cambodia. The RCEP negotiations are held among the 10 ASEAN Member States (AMS) and its six



Infrastructural elements to support investment in ASEAN.

FTA Partners, namely, Australia, China, India, Japan, Korea and New Zealand and is aimed at achieving a modern, comprehensive, high-quality and mutually beneficial economic partnership agreement among them.

As of mid-2016, 13 rounds of negotiations have been held. The 6th to 10th rounds transpired in 2015 while the 11th to 13th rounds were conducted during the first half of 2016, with the 13th round held from 12 to 18 June 2016 in Auckland, New Zealand. The Leaders continue to reaffirm their commitment to the successful conclusion of the RCEP negotiations, and on 22 November 2015, at the sideline of the 27th ASEAN Summit, issued a Joint Statement on the RCEP Negotiations instructing Ministers and negotiators to further intensify their efforts towards its conclusion in 2016.

| ASEAN Free Trade Area (AFTA) Council | |
|--------------------------------------|---|
| Established | 1992, meets annually |
| Last Meeting | Joint AEM-29 th AFTA Council Meeting, 22 August 2015, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia |
| Senior Officials | Senior Economic Officials Meeting (SEOM) |

The ASEAN Free Trade Area (AFTA) remains the fundamental background for success and sustainability

of the ASEAN Economic Community (AEC). The AFTA Council continues to play a key role in monitoring the implementation of commitments and directing ASEAN integration process under the framework of ASEAN Trade in Goods Agreement (ATIGA). With the establishment of AEC in 2015, internal ASEAN tariffs on goods have virtually being eliminated. The AFTA Council has shifted its focus on a new agenda which is to promote trade by streamlining and eliminating non-tariff measures (NTMs), and more importantly developing a harmonised, transparent and rule-based trade regulatory framework in the region.

Sectoral bodies under the AFTA Council covering trade in goods, customs, ASEAN Single Window, standards and conformance, and sanitary and phytosanitary have been intensifying efforts in promoting transparency and creating a seamless and favourable environment for flow of goods. The trade facilitation concept has been introduced and are more deeply integrated into the various initiatives undertaken. In 2015, the revitalisation of the ASEAN Trade Facilitation Joint Committee has demonstrated ASEAN's commitment to a mechanism that is able to coordinate efforts of sectoral bodies in consistently identify solutions to reduce trade cost and time of transactions. Trade facilitation is becoming a driving force for the ASEAN regional economic integration process.

In a new paradigm of global value chains, the AFTA Council places business community at the centre of the regional economic integration process. Its sectoral

bodies are tasked to engage intensively with ASEAN businesses, especially small and medium enterprises with a view of creating an enabling environment for the businesses to fully capitalise the benefits of the ASEAN integrated market to efficiently participate in the global value chain.

Tariff Commitments

Significant progress has been made by ASEAN Member States on tariff liberalisation as per the agreed timeline, i.e. tariff elimination for ASEAN by 2010, and for CLMV by 2015, with flexibility up to 2018 on certain products that shall not exceed 7 per cent of all products. To date, import duties for 99.20% and 97.81% of committed tariff lines have been eliminated by ASEAN-6 and CLMV, respectively, or 98.67% across all ten ASEAN Member States.

Rules of Origin (ROO)

ASEAN has completed the transposition of the ITA products from AHTN 2007 into AHTN 2012 and the said list is being endorsed by the AFTA Council on an ad-referendum basis.

To enhance business development in the region and ensure that the ATIGA ROOs applied are trade-facilitative, discussion have commenced on the removal of the FOB value from the CO Form D in cases where Regional Value Content (RVC) 40% rule is applied, and on the most appropriate ROO for the automotive and iron and steel products.

Two Self-certification Pilot Projects are being implemented by ASEAN Member States in moving towards the realisation of ASEAN-wide Self-certification system by 2016.

The amended ATIGA OCP to allow acceptance of electronic ATIGA CO Form D using the ASEAN Single Window (ASW) is subject to full endorsement by the AFTA Council on an ad-referendum basis in 2016.

Non-Tariff Measures (NTMs)

Focus is now being given to address the NTMs that may have trade barrier effects. In view of ASEAN's continued effort to eliminate the barrier components of NTMs, ASEAN has embarked on several initiatives, such as (i) notification of the newly introduced NTMs as mandated

by the AFTA Council; (ii) implementation of the work programmes on NTMs for national and regional levels endorsed by the 27th AFTA Council to identify, verify and address NTMs; (iii) update/reclassification of the ASEAN NTMs database to align with the UNCTAD 2012 NTM Classification system; (iv) discussion to resolve NTM cases faced by businesses as lodged in the "Matrix of Actual cases on NTM/NTBs; and (v) operationalisation of interagency bodies at the national level in Member States to strengthen coordination of domestic and regional efforts to address NTM/NTBs.

Trade Facilitation

The ATIGA requires that an ASEAN Trade Repository (ATR) which contains the trade and customs laws and procedures of all AMSs and trade-related information be established by 2015. To date 8 National Trade Repositories (NTRs) which are precursors to the ATR have been established. ASEAN Member States are now in process of linking the information between their NTRs and ATR for the full operationalisation of the ATR. The ATR shall serve as a regional interface to link through the national interfaces among ASEAN Member States' NTRs.

ASEAN Solutions for Investments, Services and Trade (ASSIST)

ASEAN is working towards the revamp of the ASEAN Consultation to Solve Trade and Investment Issues (ACT) which is now called "ASEAN Solutions for Investments, Services and Trade (ASSIST)" which is an internet-based, non-legal and non-binding problem-solving mechanism, linking a network of ASEAN government focal points, where private sector complaints can be channelled and operational problems and cross-border issues encountered in the implementation of ASEAN agreements can be resolved using a low-cost approach for full operation in 2016.

Customs Integration

The ASEAN Agreement on Customs helps operationalise the Customs Chapter of the ASEAN Trade in Goods Agreement (ATIGA) and forms a comprehensive legal framework and ensures the predictability, consistency and transparency in the application of customs law of all ASEAN Member States. ASEAN Customs Working Groups have drafted the high-level document, "Broad

Directions for Customs Activities 2016-2025” which will be tabled at the 25th Meeting of the ASEAN Directors-General of Customs on 25-27 May 2016 for the endorsement.

The ASEAN Harmonised Tariff Nomenclature (AHTN) 2017 had been finalised and the process of its endorsement by the ASEAN Customs DGs on-going. Once endorsed the Member States would be able work on the transposition of AHTN 2017 in their National Tariffs and endeavour implementation by 2017.

For the implementation of the ASEAN Customs Transit System (ACTS) Pilot, the proposed draft of the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) had been finalised among participating Member States namely, Malaysia, Singapore and Thailand. The Pilot is expected to start in July 2016 before rolling out to the other interested AMS's.

ASEAN Single Window

ASEAN is developing the ASEAN Single Window (ASW) to enhance trade facilitation by providing an integrated platform of partnership among government agencies and end-users such as the economic operators, transport and logistics operators in the movement of goods. National Single Window (NSW), which enables a single submission of data and information, is a prerequisite of the ASW National Single Window.

Significant progress has been made in the development and implementation of the ASW and National Single Windows (NSWs), particularly the development of the ASW enabling infrastructure. Under the ASW Pilot Project, the tests in the exchange of the ATIGA Form D had been conducted among the five (5) exchange-ready Member States, namely Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore, Thailand and Viet Nam. The Protocol on the Legal Framework to Implement the ASW (PLF) has been signed by Finance Ministers and is currently in the process of ratification by Member States.

Standards and Conformance

The ASEAN Consultative Committee for Standards and Quality (ACCSQ) in its capacity as the focal point in ASEAN for issues related to standards and conformance has been mandated to address the Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) in ASEAN in support of establishing a single market and production base. The standards and conformance activities in ASEAN continue to focus

on the facilitation of Priority Integration Sectors (PIS) which include agro-based products (prepared foodstuff), automotive, electrical and electronic products, healthcare (cosmetics, medical devices, pharmaceuticals, traditional medicine and health supplements), rubber and wood-based products.

The ASEAN guidelines on standards, technical regulations and conformity assessment procedures and its related documents such as the ASEAN guidelines on harmonisation of standards, ASEAN guidelines on Mutual Recognition Arrangement (MRA), and ASEAN guidelines on accreditation and conformity assessment have been developed and updated to make them more relevant and attuned with the regional and global developments. Moreover, the 2016-2025 ASEAN Strategic Plan on Standards and Conformance has also been finalised as pathways for ACCSQ in supporting the AEC Blueprint 2025.

Harmonisation of standards and technical requirements

Progress has also been made on harmonisation of standards and technical requirements focusing on the relevant sectors and subsectors of automotive, cosmetics, electrical and electronic equipment, prepared foodstuff, medical devices, pharmaceuticals and rubber-based products. Harmonisations of 19 technical requirements in the traditional medicines and health supplement sectors have been completed. ASEAN common procedures on legal metrology weighing instruments have also been completed in addition to the ASEAN common requirements for pre-packaged products.

Development and Implementation of Mutual Recognition Arrangement:

Mutual Recognition Arrangements (MRAs) for recognition and acceptance of conformity assessment results have been realised in the Electrical and Electronics as well as Pharmaceutical sectors. An MRA on Bioequivalence (BE) Study Report has been finalised, while three MRAs are currently under development namely: MRA for Automotive Products, Prepared Foodstuffs and Building and Construction Materials. The ASEAN Framework Agreement on MRA, which is the policy document for the development of ASEAN MRAs in goods, is being reviewed and updated to make it more relevant and serve the needs of ASEAN in enhancing trade.

Development and Implementation of Harmonised Technical Regulations

Harmonisation on technical regulations has been realised in cosmetics, medical device and electrical and electronic equipment. The review of the ASEAN Harmonised Cosmetics Regulatory Scheme has commenced in order to be attuned with the regional and global developments. Discussions are on-going for the finalisation of the ASEAN Agreements on Traditional Medicines and Health Supplements, while a program to develop a harmonised regulatory regime in the automotive sector is in progress.

| ASEAN Investment Area (AIA) Council | |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| Established | 1998, meets annually |
| Last Meeting | AEM-18 th AIA Council, 22 August 2015, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia |
| Senior Officials | Senior Economic Officials Meeting (SEOM) |

ASEAN continues to be the preferred investment destination given its robust regional economic fundamentals, cost advantages, regional integration and on-going efforts to improve the investment environment. Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) into ASEAN has risen for the third consecutive year, reaching US\$136.2 billion in 2014. Despite a 16% decline of global FDI flows in 2014, ASEAN Member States have collectively received the largest FDI among developing countries.

Implementation of the ASEAN Comprehensive Investment Agreement (ACIA) has progressed well, which serves as ASEAN's main economic instrument in realising the free flow of investment. The AIA Council Ministers in August 2015 endorsed the recommendations of the senior officials on the built-in-agenda of the ACIA related to Prohibition of Performance Requirements (PPR) and treatment of Permanent Residents, which would further enhance the implementation and effectiveness of the Agreement. The officials are now working on the necessary legal instruments to put into effect the required amendments to the ACIA.

The Ministers welcomed the completion of the endorsement of the revised ACIA reservation lists of Brunei Darussalam, Indonesia, Lao PDR and Myanmar.

These revised reservation lists will enter into force upon completion of the ratification process by all ASEAN Member States for the Protocol to Amend ACIA, which was signed in 2014.

ASEAN Member States exerted efforts to continuously improve their respective investment regimes through economic reform and various investment facilitation initiatives. The continuing involvement of ASEAN Member States in Investment Policy Reviews conducted by the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) signify their commitment to increase transparency, enhance investment regimes, and consequently further facilitate investment into the region. The ASEAN Investment Report 2014-2015, published in collaboration with UNCTAD, was launched during the ASEAN Business and Investment Summit (ABIS) in November 2015 in Kuala Lumpur. It provides a useful reference for the business community and also shows ASEAN's commitment to facilitate and promote investments in the region. Other key initiatives to promote investment include the series of ACIA Socialisation Forums for Businesses and the Seminars on ACIA for Investment Promotion Agencies. The Forum and Seminar were held from 4-5 April 2016 in Bangkok, Thailand and 7-8 April 2016 in Singapore respectively.

| ASEAN Finance Ministers' Meeting (AFMM) | |
|---|---|
| Established | 1997, meets annually |
| Last Meeting | 20 th AFMM, 4 April 2016, Vientiane, Lao PDR |
| Senior Officials | ASEAN Finance Deputies' Meeting (AFDM) |

| ASEAN Finance Ministers' and Central Bank Governors' Meeting (AFMGM) | |
|--|--|
| Established | 2015, meets annually |
| Last Meeting | 2 nd AFMGM, 4 April 2016, Vientiane, Lao PDR |
| Senior Officials | ASEAN Finance and Central Bank Deputies' Meeting (AFCDM) |

Financial services liberalisation has progressed further with the signing of the Protocol to implement the 7th Package of Commitments on Financial Services under

the AFAS by the ASEAN Finance Ministers. Under the ASEAN Banking Integration Framework (ABIF), monitoring of bilateral arrangements, and enhancing regulatory standards and financial stability arrangement are ongoing. Integration of the insurance sector is expected to gain traction with the establishment of ASEAN Insurance Forum (AIFo).

On capital market development and integration, the Streamlined Review Framework for the ASEAN Common Prospectus has been implemented with the launch of a handbook to provide guidance to the industry on relevant administrative and procedural matters. The industry response to the Framework for Cross-Border Offerings of Collective Investment Schemes (CIS) has been positive, with 13 funds already recognised as Qualifying ASEAN CIS. Debt markets in ASEAN have been deepened further through facilitation of retail access to domestic bond markets.

To support the agenda of freer flow of capital across ASEAN, the methodology for the Capital Account Liberalisation Heat Map is being enhanced, policy dialogue process among AMS will be expanded, and capacity-building initiatives are being sustained. These measures will improve countries' readiness as they

continue to liberalise and ensure that the benefits are shared by all.

The ASEAN Infrastructure Fund (AIF) has now provided funding support to seven projects. AIF's operations will be further enhanced by addressing issues on credit ratings, bond issuance preparations, capital adequacy framework, and product diversification.

Insurance cooperation continues to be strengthened by insurance regulators' observance of the core principles of the International Association of Insurance Supervisors (IAIS) to enhance regulation and supervision. On taxation cooperation, new areas of cooperation such as exchange of information, base erosion and profit shifting, and excise taxes have been discussed. In addition, issues related to withholding taxes will be addressed to further support integration of capital markets.

Cooperation in financial inclusion aims to elevate access to the financial system, reduce financial exclusion level, and improve level of financial literacy. This initiative will also improve financial infrastructure for MSME financing.

Under the ASEAN+3 finance cooperation, peace-time preparation to improve operational readiness of the Chiang Mai Initiative Multilateralisation (CMIM) have

The richness of the agricultural products in the region.



continued through opening of local-currency accounts and conduct of test runs. The Agreement Establishing the ASEAN+3 Macroeconomic Research Office (AMRO) signed in October 2014 has entered into force in February 2016, marking its official transition to an international organization. AMRO is then expected to function as a more effective independent surveillance body supporting the CMIM. Under the Asian Bond Markets Initiative (ABMI), the Credit Guarantee and Investment Facility (CGIF) has issued thirteen guarantees for bonds amounting to USD 888 million since it commenced operations in May 2012.

| ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Agriculture and Forestry (AMAF) | |
|--|---|
| Established | 1979, meets annually |
| Last Meeting | 37 th AMAF, 10 September 2015, Makati City, Philippines |
| Senior Officials | ASEAN Senior Official Meeting of the ASEAN Ministers on Agriculture and Forestry (SOM-AMAF) |

In 2015 and 2016, the ASEAN food, agriculture and forestry sector continued to implement measures under

AEC Blueprint to promote ASEAN trade and enhance market access of agricultural products. Efforts were focused on the achievement of the key deliverables and prioritized measures under the AEC Blueprint and accelerated implementation of respective Strategic Plan of Actions (SPA). These efforts involved the areas of crops, livestock, fisheries and forestry. As of December 2015, almost 100% of the measures related to food, agriculture and forestry had been implemented.

The Vision and Strategic Plan for ASEAN Cooperation in Food, Agriculture and Forestry (SP-FAF) 2016-2025 to chart out directions for ASEAN cooperation in supporting the realisation of the ASEAN Community Vision 2025 were endorsed by AMAF. Seven strategic thrusts were formulated, namely: (i) Enhance quantity and quality of production with sustainable, 'green' technologies, resource management systems, and minimise pre-and post-harvest losses and waste; (ii) Enhance trade facilitation, economic integration and market access; (iii) Ensure food security, food safety, better nutrition and equitable distribution; (iv) Increase resilience to climate change, natural disasters and other shocks; (v) Assist resource constrained small producers and SMEs to improve productivity, technology and product quality, to meet global market standards and increase competitiveness; (vi) Strengthen ASEAN joint approaches on international and regional issues

Rubber - one of the common agricultural products in the region.



affecting the FAF sector; and (vii) Promote sustainable forest management. Concrete plans of actions and measures to implement the Strategic Plan will be developed by related sub-sectors (livestock, crops, fisheries and forestry).

In the process of implementing the ASEAN Integrated Food Security (AIFS) Framework and the Strategic Plan of Action on Food Security (SPA-FS) 2016-2020, AMAF acknowledged that ensuring supply of sufficient, affordable, safe and nutritious food that meets the dietary requirements of the increasing population of the ASEAN continues to be a major challenge for the region. The 2015 Statement of the ASEAN Ministers on Agriculture and Forestry on Food Security and Nutrition, sets out the key strategies for action at both the national and regional levels to effectively address the present and emerging threats to food security and to meet adequate nutrition for all populations in ASEAN.

In 2015, AMAF endorsed several important documents, including: (i) Intra-ASEAN Phyto-sanitary Guidelines for the importation of durian fruit and coffee bean for consumption, (ii) ASEAN Standards for Dragon Fruit, Green Mustard, Spinach, and Fresh Shiitake Mushroom, (iii) Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for Responsible Movement of Live Aquatic Animals in ASEAN, (iv) ASEAN Guidelines for Preventing the Entry of Fish and Fishery Products from IUU Fishing Activities Into the Supply Chain and (v) ASEAN Regional Guidelines for Promoting Climate Smart Agriculture Practices. These documents will help to guide efforts to improve productivity, quality and sustainability of the food, agriculture and forestry sector.

Various activities related to Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) have been carried out by the existing ASEAN mechanisms under AMAF, AEM, and ASEAN-DP FTAs. The activities are intended to ensure ASEAN agricultural products and commodities are safe and are of high quality and fit for human consumption, which are key conditions to ensure consumer health as well as to facilitate international trade. In the forestry sector, significant progress has also been achieved, particularly in the areas of (i) Promoting Sustainable Forest Management (SFM), (ii) International Forest Policy Process, (iii) Timber Certification Initiative, (iv) Forest Law Enforcement and Governance, (v) Herbal and Medicinal as well as forest products development, (vi) Wildlife enforcement and CITES Cooperation (vii)

Forest and Climate Change, (viii) Social Forestry and (ix) Capacity Building Activities.

| ASEAN Ministers on Energy Meeting (AMEM) | |
|---|---|
| Established | 1980, meets annually |
| Last Meeting | 33 rd AMEM, 7 October 2015, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia |
| Senior Officials | ASEAN Senior Officials Meeting on Energy (SOME) |

To support the realisation of the ASEAN Community Vision 2025, ASEAN Member States (AMS) adopted a new ASEAN Plan of Action on Energy Cooperation (APAEC) 2016-2025 Phase I (2016-2020). It builds on the achievements of past APAECs and sharpens cooperation in the seven strategic areas covering the (i) ASEAN Power Grid (APG); (ii) Trans-ASEAN Gas Pipeline (TAGP); (iii) coal and clean coal technologies; (iv) energy efficiency and conservation; (v) renewable energy; (vi) regional policy and planning; and (vii) civilian nuclear energy.

Meanwhile, the Full Term Report on the implementation of APAEC 2010-2015 showed that ASEAN achieved 90% of its targets and activities in support of the AEC Blueprint 2015. Major accomplishments include: (i) exceeding the aspirational targets of 8% reduction in energy intensity and 15% share of renewable energy in installed power generation capacity; (ii) completion of nine power interconnection projects with a total of 3,789 megawatts in bilateral power trade; and, (iii) the completion of 3,673 kilometers of gas pipelines and four regasification terminals connecting six AMS. Significant progress was also made in the enhancement and restructuring of the ASEAN Centre for Energy. The launch of the 4th ASEAN Energy Outlook in January 2016 complements the implementation of the new APAEC and enhances efforts to raise regional capacity for energy policy and planning.

Continued engagement with Dialogue Partners and International Organisations saw the implementation of a large number of collaboration and capacity building activities, including those under the ASEAN Renewable Energy Support Programme, ASEAN Standards Harmonisation Initiative for Energy Efficiency, ASEAN Japan Energy Efficiency Program, and the ASEAN



Utilising energy for the welfare of the people.

Energy Intensity Data and information sharing through The ASEAN Centre for Energy-ACE. Engagement with the International Energy Agency (IEA) through the AMEM-IEA Dialogue benefited ASEAN in key areas of interest including energy data collection and analysis. Preparations to engage the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA) and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) also commenced.

The annual ASEAN Energy Awards helped to engage the private sector in promoting renewable energies, energy efficiency, uptake of clean coal technologies and responsible coal resource development. In 2015, fifty five (55) awardees were recognised for best practices in (i) energy efficient buildings; (ii) energy management for building and industries; (iii) green building; (iv) renewable energy projects; and (v) excellence in energy management by individuals. Eighteen (18) awardees were also recognised for best practices in (i) surface coal mining; (ii) clean coal use and technology in power generation; (iii) clean coal use and technology in industry; (iv) coal distribution; (v) corporate social responsibility; and (vi) innovative application and use of coal.

ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Minerals (AMMin)

| | |
|------------------|--|
| Established | 2005, meets bi-annually |
| Last Meeting | 5 th AMMin, 10 September 2015, Vientiane, Lao PDR |
| Senior Officials | ASEAN Senior Officials Meeting on Minerals (ASOMM) |

In order to align with the ASEAN Post-2015 Vision, ASEAN Member States adopted the new ASEAN Minerals Cooperation Action Plan (AMCAP) 2016-2025 (AMCAP-III) in September 2015. The new AMCAP, with the theme of “*Creating a vibrant and competitive ASEAN mineral sector for the well-being of the ASEAN people through enhancing trade and investment and strengthening cooperation and capacity for sustainable mineral development in the region,*” will be implemented in two phases covering 2016-2020 (Phase I) and 2021-2025 (Phase II).

The new AMCAP aims to enhance four strategic areas in the minerals sector, namely: (i) facilitating and enhancing trade and investment in minerals; (ii) promoting environmentally and socially sustainable minerals development; (iii) strengthening institutional and human capacities in the ASEAN minerals sector; and, (iv)

maintaining an efficient and up-to-date ASEAN minerals database, including the information infrastructure to support a more integrated ASEAN minerals sector.

To support the implementation of ASEAN mineral cooperation programmes, projects and activities, AMMin endorsed the Rules and Procedures of the newly established ASEAN Minerals Trust Fund (AMTF) in September 2015. The AMTF will fund initiatives such as sector enhancing policy studies, research/feasibility studies, strategic plans, and capacity building initiatives such as training programmes, workshops and seminars. AMMin also established and adopted the guidelines for the first ASEAN Mineral Awards which will commence in 2017 to support the promotion of environmentally and socially sustainable ASEAN minerals sector.

Cooperation activities with Dialogue Partners in the promotion of scientific and technological research and development in mineral resources development and geosciences as well as cooperative programmes on technology transfer continued to be pursued. These included collaboration with China, Japan and the Republic of Korea under the ASOMM+3 framework and the Coordinating Committee for Geoscience Programmes in East and Southeast Asia (CCOP).

Private sector participation and public-private sector collaboration in ASEAN mineral cooperation programmes and activities were pursued through, among other ways, closer interaction and cooperation with the ASEAN Federation of Mining Associations (AFMA) comprising the national mining chambers/associations in the respective ASEAN Member States.

ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Science and Technology (AMMST)

| | |
|------------------|---|
| Established | 1980, meeting annually (including informal ministerial meeting) |
| Last Meeting | 16 th AMMST, 6 November 2015, Vientiane, Lao PDR |
| Senior Officials | Committee on Science and Technology (COST) |

The 16th ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Science and Technology held on 6 November 2015 adopted the ASEAN Plan of Action on Science, Technology and Innovation (APASTI) for the period 2016-2025. The Ministers supported the recommendations of the APASTI to restructure COST through the merger of the

The 5th ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Minerals held on 10 September 2015 in Vientiane, Lao PDR.



Advisory Body of ASEAN Plan of Action on Science and Technology (ABAPAST) and the Advisory Body on ASEAN Science Fund (ABASF) to form the Board of Advisers to COST (BAC).

The Ministers further agreed that the APASTI should be accompanied by an implementation plan that will include the priorities, targets/deliverables, specific actions, timelines, and indicators, to be derived from the work plans of COST subsidiary bodies.

The Ministers welcomed the setting up of an ASEAN Talent Mobility (ATM) Platform. A mechanism for the operationalisation of the ATM platform shall be developed. The Ministers reaffirmed the importance to include specific actions and programmes such as S&T competency and skill framework for industry as part of talent mobility.

Cooperation with ASEAN Dialogue Partners has continued to be strengthened. The Ministers welcomed Japan's proposal for a five year, Japan-ASEAN STI Platform (JASTIP) and a Japan-ASEAN Exchange Programme for Young ASEAN officials working in STI. The Ministers noted the progress of the second year implementation of the ASEAN-U.S. S&T Fellows Program, and welcomed new initiatives such as the ASEAN-U.S. Young Southeast Asian Leadership Initiative (YSEALI) Innovation Challenge and the ASEAN-U.S. Prize for Women in Science. The YSEALI Innovation Challenge is designed to give youth the opportunity to identify science and technology-based solutions to challenges in food-related industries. The Ministers also noted that the first Da Vinci Award and Scholarship were granted to two students from Indonesia and Singapore during the ASEAN Plus Three Ministerial Forum on STI on 20 October 2015 in Daejeon, South Korea.

The Ministers noted with appreciation the conduct of various events which include the 14th ASEAN Food Conference; the 4th ASEAN Plus Three Junior Science Odyssey; ASEAN Plus Three (APT) Ministerial Forum on STI and the ASEAN-Russia cooperation projects on space technology and nano-biotechnology. The Ministers look forward to the outcomes and recommendations of various events to be conducted such as the ASEAN-US S&T Fellows Program (2016-2017), ASEAN Crowdfunding Workshop; the ASEAN STI Forum in August 2016 in Bangkok, Thailand; and the ASEAN-EU STI Days on 10-12 May 2016 in Ha Noi, Viet Nam.

ASEAN Telecommunications and IT Ministers Meeting (TELMIN)

| | |
|------------------|--|
| Established | 2001, meets annually |
| Last Meeting | 15 th TELMIN, 26-27 November 2015, Da Nang, Viet Nam |
| Senior Officials | ASEAN Telecommunications & Information Technology Senior Officials Meeting (TELSOM) and ASEAN Telecommunication Regulators' Council (ATRC) |

In the effort to promote a digital economy in the region, ASEAN successfully organised the ASEAN ICT Award 2015 to encourage innovation in the creation of online public and commercial services, and the ASEAN Cyber (Creative) Kids Camp 2015 to promote creativity in application and content development, amongst ASEAN high school students. ASEAN also produced the ASEAN Mutually Accepted Skill Standard (MASS) and Training Roadmap for ICT and produced policy recommendations on Cloud Computing in ASEAN and proposed an Intra-ASEAN Secure Transaction Framework as a basis for cross-border mutual recognition of electronic authentication schemes.

The final review of the ASEAN ICT Masterplan 2015 (AIM2015) implementation concluded that all of the 29 AIM2015's action points had been addressed by the 87 cooperation projects that had been successfully completed. To carry forward the cooperation effort beyond 2015, TELMIN adopted the new AIM2020 to guide ASEAN ICT cooperation in the next five years, towards a digitally-enabled economy which is innovative, transformative and secure for a sustainable, inclusive and integrated ASEAN Community.

ASEAN ICT cooperation with China, Japan, the Republic of Korea, India, the European Union, the United States and the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) has been productive. In cooperation with China, the Action Plan for implementing the newly established ASEAN-China Computer Emergency Response Teams (CERTs) Cooperative Mechanism to further strengthen cyber security cooperation, and the 2016 ASEAN-China ICT Work Plan for cooperation in the areas of broadband development and USO, internet-based new business and applications, cloud computing and big data, network security emergency response capacity building and

ICT's role for economic and social development, were endorsed.

The implementation of the “ASEAN-Japan Collaboration Framework on Information Security” has been progressing, with the conduct of the Cyber SEA Games, joint research projects and further ASEAN-Japan Critical Information Infrastructure Protection Guidelines development. Japan’s proposal for establishing an “ASEAN-Japan Cyber-security Cooperation Hub” was welcomed. In cooperation with the Republic of Korea, a programme of future cooperation on ICT development, particularly in incubating start-ups, supporting entrepreneurship and enhancing cyber security, was agreed upon. The Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between ASEAN and ITU on Joint Cooperation on ICT Development has been renewed for the period 2015-2018. Numerous activities have been completed over the last year to support ASEAN’s ICT human and institutional capacity development efforts, notably through the exchange of best practices and joint research activities in the areas of cyber security and broadband connectivity.

ASEAN Transport Ministers Meeting (ATM)

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|------------------|---|
| Established | 1996, meets annually |
| Last Meeting | 21 st ATM, 5 November 2015, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia |
| Senior Officials | ASEAN Senior Transport Officials Meeting (STOM) |

ASEAN cooperation in the transport sector has made significant achievements over the period of 2015-2016. The Kuala Lumpur Transport Strategic Plan (ASEAN Transport Strategic Plan) 2016-2025 was adopted by ASEAN Transport Ministers in November 2015, setting out strategic measures in the areas of air transport, land transport, maritime transport, transport facilitation and sustainable transport to support the realisation of the vision of the ASEAN Economic Community (AEC) 2025.

In the air transport sector, the objectives of the ASEAN Open Skies, which is a critical element in the establishment of an ASEAN Single Aviation Market (ASAM), have been realised through the full ratification of ASEAN open sky agreements consisting of a set of



Connecting people in the region.

multilateral agreements on liberalisation of air freight and passengers services.

In the area of land transport, the adoption of the ASEAN Declaration on Road Safety Strategy and the ASEAN Regional Road Safety Strategy marked significant achievements in enhancing road safety cooperation in the region. The ASEAN Regional Road Safety Strategy provides a framework for road safety strategies at the regional level to reduce road fatalities in ASEAN Member States by 50% by 2020 from the 2010 level, in accordance with the United Nations Decade of Action for Road Safety 2011-2020. On the Singapore-Kunming Rail Link (SKRL) project, the construction work on tracks from Aranyaprathet to Klongluk in Thailand inclusive of a railway bridge was completed in August 2015 and the reconstruction of a remaining 6.5 km worth of track in Poipet, to the Cambodia/Thai border, is in progress.

With regard to maritime transport, work towards the realisation of an ASEAN Single Shipping Market (ASSM) is in progress with the continuous implementation of the ASSM Work Programme. The development of Regional Oil Spill Contingency Plan is also underway to support the operationalisation of the MOU on ASEAN Cooperation Mechanism for Joint Oil Spill Preparedness and Response. The ASEAN-China Maritime Education and Training Development Strategy, which has been adopted, will enhance capacity building in maritime sector between ASEAN and China.

In transport facilitation, Green Logistics Vision and its Action Plan have been adopted, with the aim to develop and implement a common ASEAN green logistics vision and measures in order to achieve sustainable and environmental-friendly logistics in ASEAN Member States. Studies on a Seamless and Integrated Land Bridge was completed and has identified eight potential land bridge routes on the ASEAN mainland, with several recommendations to implement the routes as an integrated land bridge network. Preparations are underway for the implementation of ASEAN Customs Transit System (ACTS) pilot project in Malaysia, Singapore and Thailand, which would serve as a catalyst for the implementation of ASEAN Framework Agreement on Facilitation of Goods in Transit (AFAFGIT).

| Meeting of ASEAN Tourism Ministers (M-ATM) | |
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| Established | 1996, meets annually |
| Last Meeting | 19 th M-ATM, 21 January 2016, Manila, Philippines |
| Senior Officials | Meeting of the ASEAN National Tourism Organisations (NTOs) |

In 2015, ASEAN Member States received 113 million international visitors, posting a growth of 8% from 2014. Intra-ASEAN travel maintained its position as the top source of tourists in the region, making up 42% of total international arrivals in 2015. The implementation of the ASEAN Tourism Strategic Plan (ATSP) 2011-2015 has been successful, with 91% of its measures have been implemented. The remaining measures will be completed in 2016. Building on the momentum of the ATSP 2011-2015 and the important role of ASEAN tourism in making greater contributions towards the realisation of ASEAN integration, the ASEAN Tourism Ministers adopted the new ATSP 2016-2025.

To commemorate the 50th Anniversary of ASEAN in 2017, preparation for the “*Visit ASEAN@50*” campaign is underway. This campaign would promote and showcase ASEAN as a single tourism destination featuring iconic ASEAN tourism products, events and experiences. Progress has been made in promoting and marketing ASEAN tourism through websites, events, social media marketing, public relations and partnerships with the private sector and ASEAN centres.

All ASEAN Member States signed the Agreement on the Establishment of the Regional Secretariat for the Implementation of the Mutual Recognition Arrangement on Tourism Professionals (MRA-TP) on 30 December 2015. The Regional Secretariat, to be stationed in Jakarta, will promote the implementation of the MRA-TP by providing support for its operations and management as well as implementation of related projects and activities at the regional level. Several projects to support MRA-TP are also in the process of finalisation, namely: the ASEAN Tourism Professionals Registration System (ATPRS), and the Toolbox Development for Travel Agencies and Tour Operations.



Night market as one of tourist destinations in Lao PDR.

In January 2016, the ASEAN Green Hotel Awards were presented to 89 hotels in the region that have complied with the new ASEAN Green Hotel Standard. In addition, the first ASEAN Homestay Award Ceremony was convened on 22 January 2016 in Manila, Philippines, where 31 ASEAN homestay organisations and providers were awarded with Homestay Standard Certificates.

The ASEAN Cruise 2015 Work Plan was carried out through the participation of ASEAN at the Cruise Shipping Miami, monthly e-Newsletter, and ASEAN Cruise News. In further promoting the region as a cruise destination, the new branding: “*Cruise Southeast Asia, feel the warmth*” was adopted by the ASEAN Tourism Ministers.

The ASEAN Tourism Forum (ATF) 2016 was held on 18-22 January 2016 in Manila, Philippines, with the theme of “One Community for Sustainability.” The Forum was attended by 457 buyers and 1000 exhibitors with 467 booths as well as 83 international and 100 local media. The ATF 2017 will be convened on 16-20 January 2017 in Singapore, with the theme of “Shaping our Tourism Journey Together.”

The image features a solid red upper half and a white lower half, separated by a horizontal wavy line. Below this line, several overlapping, curved bands in various shades of red and orange sweep across the white background, creating a sense of movement and depth. The text is centered in the red area.

**ASEAN SOCIO-CULTURAL
COMMUNITY (ASCC)**



Introduction

The ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community (ASCC) Blueprint 2009-2015 has continued to contribute to the realisation of an ASEAN Community that is people-oriented and people-centred. Together with the other two pillars, the ASCC is a catalyst in building a sharing and caring ASEAN society-one that is inclusive and harmonious and where the well-being, livelihood, and welfare of the ASEAN peoples are enhanced.

Brief background of priorities and achievements

The year 2015 was a landmark year in the implementation of the ASCC Blueprint 2009-2015. By the end of 2015, all 339 action lines in the ASCC Blueprint had been addressed. Highlights of achievements also include the adoption of the ASCC Blueprint 2025, a component of the ASEAN Vision 2025 and the ten-year Blueprints of the three ASEAN Community Pillars. The Blueprint was developed and finalised by the High Level Task Force-



Humanitarian logistics training for the third batch of ACE Programme.

ASCC with the support of the ASEAN Secretariat. It aims to contribute to the building of ASEAN Community beyond 2015, which envisions an ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community that: (i) engages and benefits the peoples; and is (ii) inclusive; (iii) sustainable; (iv) resilient; and (v) dynamic.

ASEAN sectoral ministerial bodies, senior officials and relevant partners under ASCC made important contributions in realising the priorities of the ASCC. These include strengthening coordination on issues that are cross-sectoral and cross-pillar, and in setting the directions for Post-2015 in key areas pertaining to Higher Education, Civil Service, Environmental Sustainability and Climate Change, Ageing, Social Protection,

Disaster Management and Resilience to Disasters and Climate Change, and Elimination of Violence Against Children and Women. Key outcome documents include the adoption of the Kuala Lumpur Declaration on Ageing: Empowering Older Persons in ASEAN; Kuala Lumpur Declaration on Higher Education; ASEAN Joint Statement on Climate Change; ASEAN Regional Plan of Actions on Elimination of Violence Against Women (EVAW) and ASEAN Regional Plan of Actions on the Elimination of Violence Against Children; Declaration on ASEAN Post-2015 on Environmental Sustainability and Climate Change Agenda; and Declaration on Institutionalising the Resilience of ASEAN and its Communities and Peoples to Disasters and Climate. At the upcoming 28th ASEAN Summit in September 2016 in

Lao PDR, the ASEAN Declaration on One ASEAN One Response: ASEAN Responding to Disasters as One in the Region and Outside the Region will be submitted for adoption and signing by the ASEAN Leaders.

Way forward for 2016

In forging ahead toward the ASEAN Vision 2025, the ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community will play an instrumental role in enhancing the ability of the peoples of ASEAN to come closer together, to embrace one another's cultures, to grow more resilient than ever, and most importantly, to define a new meaning of people-oriented and people-centred ASEAN.

To work toward a full and effective implementation of the ASCC Blueprint 2025, ASEAN will build upon the experiences and lessons learned in implementing the previous ASCC Blueprint, including in promoting coordination in issues which require cross-sectoral and cross-pillar collaboration and to fully engage all stakeholders. A new and unique aspect is the complementarity in implementing the ASCC Blueprint 2025 and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Measuring of the ASCC's performance will have to be strengthened through establishing and agreeing on effective monitoring and evaluation frameworks as well

as clear indicators for the respective work plans or work programmes to implement the ASCC 2025. These are to be developed by different sectoral bodies under the ASCC within 2016.

Under the ASEAN Chairmanship of Lao PDR in 2016, the priorities relevant to the work of ASCC will be to focus on enhancing cooperation to promote employment opportunities for women to contribute to poverty alleviation and to promote cooperation in the preservation and protection of cultural heritages in ASEAN.

| ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community (ASCC) Council | |
|---|--|
| Established | 2009, meets at least twice a year |
| Last Meeting | 14 th Meeting of the ASCC Council, 7 October 2015, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia |
| Senior Officials | Senior Officials Committee for the ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community (SOCA) |

The 14th Meeting of the ASCC Council (ASCC Council) was convened on 7 October 2015 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia under the chairmanship of Malaysia. The ASCC

A performance by Lao's dancers at the Best of ASEAN Performing Arts in Jakarta, November 2015.



Council functions as a high-level policy coordinating body that seeks to ensure coherence among the initiatives of the ASCC sectoral bodies.

The meeting was convened at a significant time for the Council and ASEAN Community-building endeavors when ASEAN is sprinting for the advent of the ASEAN Community.

Among the most important decisions made and guidance provided by the 14th ASCC Council was the adoption of the ASCC Vision 2025 to ensure that the ASCC engages and benefits the peoples, and is inclusive, sustainable, resilient and dynamic. It also provided valuable guidance in coordinating issues that cut across the other Community Councils.

Towards this end, the meeting reviewed the status of implementation of the ASCC Blueprint 2009-2015 and ASEAN Declarations under the ASCC pillar. The Meeting noted with satisfaction that all the 339 Action Lines in the ASCC Blueprint 2009-2015 had been addressed and since most of the action lines are continuing in nature, they may be carried over beyond 2015 in the work plans/work programmes of the ASCC sectoral bodies.

To contribute to the realisation of the ASEAN Community Vision 2025, the Meeting endorsed the ASCC Blueprint 2025. The Blueprint, which benefited from extensive regional and national consultations with ASEAN organs and sectoral bodies, Civil Society Organisations and informed by the study conducted by the Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia (ERIA), was adopted by the ASEAN Leaders at the 27th ASEAN Summit in November 2015.

The Meeting recognised the importance of effective implementation of the ASCC Blueprint and in this regard acknowledged the ASCC Scorecard Final Report 2015 developed in cooperation with the ASCC sectoral ministerial bodies. The Meeting encouraged all the ASCC sectoral ministerial bodies to utilise the report in reviewing and enhancing their respective monitoring and reporting systems. To strengthen ASEAN's capacity in monitoring and evaluation of the implementation of the ASCC Blueprint 2025, the Meeting agreed that there is a need to streamline the indicators for each sectoral body to provide a comprehensive assessment of the key outcomes. The Meeting also acknowledged recommendations in the ASEAN Regional Assessment Report on the MDG Achievements and Post-2015

Development Priorities, a collaborative report by the ASEAN Secretariat and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), which provided further guidance to all the relevant ASCC sectoral ministerial bodies in their post-2015 work programmes.

| ASEAN Ministers Responsible for Information (AMRI) | |
|---|---|
| Established | 1989, meets once in two years |
| Last Meeting | 13 th Conference of the AMRI (13 th AMRI), 17 March 2016, Cebu, Philippines |
| Senior Officials | Senior Officials Responsible for Information (SOMRI) |

ASEAN's information and media sector has affirmed its commitment to continue its efforts to raise ASEAN awareness and support other community pillars and sectors with their communication needs through the adoption of the ASEAN Strategic Plan for Information and Media 2016-2025 at the 13th Conference of the AMRI. The said Plan will advance cooperation in promoting access to information about ASEAN, promote a sense of regional identity and community, harness the use of information and communication technologies to reach wider audiences, and develop ASEAN-relevant multi-media content.

Against the backdrop of the launching of the ASEAN Community, AMRI expressed their resolve to further advocate for the policies and initiatives implemented by ASEAN, and to strengthen cooperation between different information platforms to promulgate the benefits of ASEAN's development. AMRI also discussed their preparations and expressed their support for the activities to celebrate the 50th Founding Anniversary of ASEAN in 2017 and for the effective implementation of the ASEAN Communication Master Plan.

The information sector plans to sustain their initiatives on using multimedia platforms to disseminate information about the benefits and opportunities of the ASEAN Community. Long-running media exchange projects such as *ASEAN Television News: Integrates, Informs, Inspires* and *Voice of ASEAN: Beyond Boundaries* will thus continue to be implemented. A new drive for enhancing the access to information and media



TV personalities from ASEAN and Japan gather for the Public Event of the ASEAN-Japan TV Festival, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, 12 September 2015.

cooperation has been put forward through the ASEAN Virtual Learning Resource Centre and the inaugural ASEAN Editors' Summit.

The SOMRI Working Groups on ASEAN Digital Broadcasting; Content and Production; and Information, Media and Training have put forward their policy-related priorities to collaborate on enhancing digital broadcasting, making ASEAN more attractive to content producers, promoting media literacy and constructive use of social media, and capacity-building of media personnel.

In conjunction with the launching of the ASEAN Community, the ASEAN Committee on Culture and Arts (ASEAN-COCA) Sub-Committee on Information (SCI) developed a public service advertising, which highlights the political, economic, social and cultural dynamism of the ASEAN region.

The information sector continues to collaborate with private sector and ASEAN Dialogue Partners on information and media initiatives. Examples of which include a series of promotion for film and film industry of ASEAN at international events (such as Berlin and Cannes), ASEAN media personnel exchanges between China, India and the Republic of Korea, media training and production of multi-media tools for ASEAN awareness, the ASEAN-Japan Television Festival, and the ASEAN Spotlight TV programme with support from Japan. Cooperation in information and media is expected to get stronger with the reinvigoration of the Work Plan on Enhancing ASEAN Plus Three Cooperation through

Information and Media (2012-2017), updated Work Plan on Enhancing ASEAN-China Cooperation through Information and Media, the ASEAN-Japan Cooperation Initiative for Broadcasting and Television, and a long-term media professional training programme with the ROK.

ASEAN Ministers Responsible for Culture and Arts (AMCA)

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|------------------|--|
| Established | 2003, meets once in two years |
| Last Meeting | 6 th AMCA Meeting, 19-20 April 2014, Hue City, Viet Nam |
| Senior Officials | Senior Officials Meeting for Culture and Arts (SOMCA) |

ASEAN's culture and arts sector remains committed to the advancement of culture as one of the foundations of the ASEAN Community's dynamism and a cohesive force in further building harmony among the peoples of ASEAN. AMCA will forge ahead with its goal of deepening the ASEAN identity by strengthening efforts in raising the appreciation for the histories, cultures, arts and traditions of the ASEAN region. Capitalising on the advances made in people-to-people connectivity, the culture sector has also resolved to promote inter-cultural dialogue.

In celebration of the launching of the ASEAN Community in 2015, the ASEAN Committee on Culture and

Information (ASEAN-COCI) Sub-Committee on Culture implemented its flagship project entitled *Festival of ASEAN Cultural Expressions*. The festival was a convergence of various performance arts, traditional games, and arts and crafts to deepen understanding among the peoples of ASEAN. The event contributed to raising the public's awareness of the cultural diversity and vibrancy of the ASEAN region.

Projects catered to the youth such as the *Symposium on the Role of the Youth in Preservation and Promotion of Intangible Cultural Heritage* and *ASEAN Youth Camp: Reunion and Music Camp and Festival* were implemented to reinforce the youth's appreciation and sense of responsibility as future custodians of heritage. These programmes also instilled in youths an understanding of the many shared cultural heritage among the peoples of ASEAN.

Heritage managers were involved in such projects as *Workshop on the Manuscripts of Palm Leaf in ASEAN and Preservation, Conservation Management of Bagan Ancient City, and ASEAN Cultural Preservation Exchange and Archaeological Site Visit at Vat Phu Champasak*. The sharing of best practices is expected to lead to the development of competence of heritage professionals as they continue to contribute to the preservation and protection of ASEAN cultural heritage.

The *ASEAN Culture and Arts Cooperation Dialogue* served as an opportunity to exchange of ideas and explore collaboration opportunities with a broad range of stakeholders from non-government and inter-government institutions, foundations and the private sector that have interests in regional culture and arts initiatives.

Among the future initiatives of the culture sector are related to developing the youth's understanding of traditional cultural expressions, supporting the role of the youth in tangible and intangible heritage management, exchange of experiences in harnessing the creative cultural industries, and a concert of young contemporary musicians.

Engagement with ASEAN Dialogue Partners in the areas of culture and arts has progressed steadily. Many high-level meetings and large-scale culture activities are being implemented in relation to the ASEAN-Russia Year of Culture in 2016. China, Japan, and the Republic of Korea will be meeting ASEAN counterparts during the

7th Meeting of ASEAN Ministers for Culture and Arts in Brunei Darussalam.

| ASEAN Education Ministers Meeting (ASED) | |
|--|---|
| Established | 2006, meets biennially |
| Last Meeting | 8 th ASED, 11 September 2014, Vientiane, Lao PDR |
| Senior Officials | ASEAN Senior Officials Meeting on Education (SOM-ED) |

The year 2015 concluded the implementation of the first ASEAN 5-Year Work Plan on Education 2011-2015 with significant achievements, particularly in higher education and technical and vocational education and training (TVET).

Cooperation on higher education has gained momentum with the implementation of European Union Support to Higher Education in ASEAN Region (SHARE), which aims to support the ASEAN higher education efforts in enhancing existing mechanisms in the areas of quality assurance and qualification framework, policy dialogues as well as students mobility through credit transfer system. Key activities completed during the year in review include two policy dialogues on the landscape of higher education in ASEAN, and degree structures, a study visit to Europe, and conduct and publication of three studies on: (i) the state of play of the ASEAN Qualification Framework and National Qualification Frameworks; (ii) the state of play of regional Quality Assurance in the ASEAN region; and (iii) degree structures in the ASEAN region.

The increased attention to higher education cooperation in ASEAN was further supported by the ASEAN Leaders' adoption of the Kuala Lumpur Declaration on Higher Education during the 27th ASEAN Summit in November 2015. Sponsored by Malaysia, the Declaration consolidates views pertaining to higher education in ASEAN, and justifies higher education as driver for growth in the ASEAN region. As immediate follow-up to the Declaration, Malaysia hosted the Workshop on Development of Framework and Action Plan to implement the Declaration in April 2016.

Along TVET, ASEAN collaborated with the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) in the implementation of the Regional Cooperation

Programme to improve the Training of TVET Personnel (RECOTVET) which aims at supporting and creating personnel, institutional and thematic preconditions for quality improvement and regional harmonisation of the education and training of TVET personnel in Southeast Asia. The three action areas of the project are: (i) regional policy dialogue and cooperation; (ii) human capacity development for TVET personnel, and; (iii) a regional cooperation in academic TVET teacher training and education as well as TVET research with focus to regional issues.

Under the leadership of Lao PDR as Chairperson of the ASEAN Education Ministers Meeting (ASEM) and the Senior Officials Meeting on Education (SOM-ED), the year 2015 also saw the development of the successor plan for education cooperation in ASEAN that provides concrete steps in implementing the ASEAN Post-2015 Vision on Education. During the 27th ASEAN Summit in November 2015, the ASEAN Leaders tasked the ASEAN Education Ministers to further enhance cooperation with the view to implementing the next ASEAN 5-year Work Plan on Education. Thus, the second five-year Work Plan on Education expands the education cooperation towards development of a more coordinated, cohesive and coherent ASEAN position and its contribution to global education goals.

| ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Disaster Management (AMMDM) | |
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| Established: | 2004, meets once a year |
| Last Meeting: | Informal AMMDM, 22 May 2016, Istanbul, Turkey |
| Senior Officials: | ASEAN Committee Disaster Management (ACDM), reporting to AMMDM and Conference of the Parties (COP) to the ASEAN Agreement on Disaster Management and Emergency Response (AADMER) |

The year 2015 marked the final year for the implementation of AADMER Work Programme 2010-2015. It was also the year in which ASEAN reflected on its collective achievements, and reviewed its collaborative efforts with partners and stakeholders to further strengthen ASEAN's capacity in reducing disasters losses and strengthening

collective response to disasters. To address current risks, future threats and to adapt to the changing humanitarian landscape, the ACDM came up with the ASEAN Vision 2025 on Disaster Management, endorsed by the 3rd AMMDM and the 4th COP to AADMER held in December 2015 in Phnom Penh, Cambodia.

To operationalise the ASEAN Vision 2025 on Disaster Management, the ACDM also came up with the AADMER Work Programme 2016-2020. The Work Programme is more than an enumeration of priority programmes for the next five years. It signifies a higher level of maturity of regional cooperation built upon a decade of implementing AADMER. The ASEAN Vision 2025 on Disaster Management and the new AADMER Work Programme were launched at the Third AADMER Partnership Conference, held on 29 April 2016 in Semarang, Indonesia.

ASEAN cooperation on disaster management has led to concrete actions in responding jointly to disasters, establishment of regional mechanisms to facilitate cooperation, and a deeper understanding of disaster risks, all of which calls for greater coherence and synergy as reflected in the One ASEAN One Response strategy. Since its establishment in November 2011, the ASEAN Coordinating Centre for Humanitarian Assistance (AHA Centre) has responded to 13 disasters in the region, demonstrating ASEAN's collective response and solidarity in times of disasters.

The draft ASEAN Declaration on One ASEAN One Response: ASEAN Responding to Disasters as One in the Region and Outside the Region, is based on the principle of harnessing the individual and collective strengths of different sectors and stakeholders to effectively respond to disasters. The draft Declaration is scheduled to be adopted and signed by the ASEAN Leaders at the 28th ASEAN Summit in September 2016. As a first step to operationalising the Declaration, AHA Centre conducted roadshows in ASEAN Member States and hosted multi-sectoral, multi-stakeholder ASEAN Joint Disaster Response Plan Workshop on 23-24 February 2016 in Jakarta, to come up with contingency plans for ASEAN's collective response to large-scale disasters.

To continue to showcase ASEAN's leadership and contribute to strategic policy discussions at the global level, the ASEAN Ministers in charge of Disaster Management convened the Informal AMMDM on 22



Field simulation exercise during ARF-DiREx 2015 in Malaysia.

May 2016 and came up with a Joint Statement for the World Humanitarian Summit held on 23-24 May 2016 in Istanbul, Turkey. The Joint Statement showcased ASEAN’s wealth of experience in disaster management and conveyed ASEAN’s commitment to the Agenda for the Humanity, issued by the UN Secretary-General for the Summit.

ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on the Environment (AMME)

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|------------------|---|
| Established | 1981, meets once every two years |
| Last Meeting | 13 th ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on the Environment (AMME), 28 October 2015, Ha Noi, Viet Nam |
| Senior Officials | ASEAN Senior Officials on the Environment (ASOEN) |

The ASEAN Joint Statement on Climate Change 2015 was adopted at the 27th ASEAN Summit on 21 November 2015 and conveyed at the High-level Segment of the 21st session of the Conference of the Parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the 11th session of the Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol on 8 December 2015 in Paris.

Mt. Timpoong Hibok-Hibok Natural Monument in the Philippines and Way Kambas National Park in Indonesia were approved by the ASEAN Environment Ministers in October 2015 to be the 36th and 37th ASEAN Heritage Parks, respectively.

The ASEAN Environment Year 2015 Celebration: “Empowering the Youth for a Green ASEAN Community” and Presentation Ceremony of the 2nd ASEAN Eco-Schools Award were held on 29-30 July 2015 in Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar. ASEAN Environment Ministers, represented by H.E. Win Tun, the Union Minister of Environment Conservation and Forestry of Myanmar, presented the awards to selected 10 primary schools and 10 secondary schools (Table 1) to recognise their exemplary eco-schools programmes.

The 7th High-level Seminar on Environmentally Sustainable Cities: “Redesigning towards the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”, held on 3-4 March 2016 in Ha Noi, Viet Nam, provided a platform for a broad range of stakeholders to discuss current issues and explore opportunities for collaborative actions.

The ASEAN Plus Three Youth Environment Forum 2016: “Imagine, Create, and Change” hosted by Singapore on 8-10 April 2016 was attended by close to 200 youths from ASEAN Member States and China. Youths proposed ideas and solutions for waste minimisation projects in their respective countries.

The Declaration on ASEAN Post-2015 Environmental Sustainability and Climate Change Agenda was adopted at the 27th ASEAN Summit to reiterate ASEAN’s commitment to address environment and climate change challenges.

To operationalise ASEAN Vision 2025, the ASEAN Environment Ministers in October 2015 supported the development of the ASEAN Strategic Plan of Action on Environment, the 5th ASEAN State of Environment



Tree-planting ceremony in commemoration of ASEAN Environment Year 2015.

Report, and the ASEAN-UN Post-2015 Work Plan on Environment and Climate Change, to be concluded in 2016.

The ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity (ACB) continues to support ASEAN Member States in achieving international targets for biodiversity conservation and management. The 2nd ASEAN Conference on Biodiversity with the theme “Biodiversity for Sustainable Development” and related events were successfully held on 15-19 February 2016 in Bangkok, Thailand,

attended by close to 700 biodiversity stakeholders from ASEAN Member States, international organisations, scientific and research community, NGOs and academe. The ASEAN-Germany Cooperation Programme on the Protection of Biological Diversity in the ASEAN Member States in Cooperation with the ACB is currently ongoing, focusing on institutional strengthening of biodiversity, small grant programme for biodiversity conservation, and biodiversity-based products for economic and development and livelihood.

Table 1. List of Awardees of the 2nd ASEAN Eco School Awards 2015

| Primary School Category | Secondary School Category |
|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Jerudong Primary School, Brunei Darussalam Wat Bo Primary School, Cambodia SMPN 4 Martapura, Kalimantan Selatan, Indonesia Thongkang Primary School, Lao PDR Sekolah Kebangsaan Bukit Baru, Melaka, Malaysia Basic Primary School Ywarhitsu, Myanmar Dubinan Elementary School, Philippines East View Primary School, Singapore Bannammin School, Thailand Ha Noi-Amsterdam High School for the Gifted, Viet Nam | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sekolah Menengah Muda Hashim, Brunei Darussalam Preah Sisowath High School, Cambodia SMA Negeri 2 Temanggung, Indonesia Saysetha Secondary School, Lao PDR Sekolah Menengah Kebangsaan Seri Aman Kota Tinggi, Johor, Malaysia. Basic High School Chanmyatharzi Township, Myanmar Ateneo De Davao University High School, Philippines Woodgrove Secondary School, Singapore Mattayomsuwitserianusn School, Thailand Foreign Language Specialised School, Ha Noi, Viet Nam |

Conference of the Parties (COP) to the ASEAN Agreement on Transboundary Haze Pollution

| | |
|------------------|--|
| Established | 2003, meets at least once every year |
| Last Meeting | COP-11, 29 October 2015, Ha Noi, Viet Nam |
| Senior Officials | Committee under COP to the ASEAN Agreement on Transboundary Haze Pollution |

In the second half of 2015, the prevailing strong El Niño exacerbated dry conditions in the region. Prolonged dry weather conditions in the southern ASEAN region from mid-August to October contributed to the significant increase of hotspots in the fire-prone provinces of Sumatra and Kalimantan. Transboundary haze from these fires affected not only the southern ASEAN region but was carried by the prevailing winds to affect parts of Thailand, Viet Nam and the Philippines. The start of the Northeast Monsoon season in December brought wet weather conditions which subdued the hotspots in the southern ASEAN region. In the northern ASEAN region, there was an escalation of hotspot activities in early 2016 as the region entered its peak traditional dry season. Rainfall was mainly below normal to normal in most parts of the greater ASEAN region during the period.

To further intensify efforts to control peatland fires, the 11th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the ASEAN Agreement on Transboundary Haze Pollution (COP-11) held on 29 October 2015 endorsed the ASEAN Guidelines on Peatland Fire Management, to serve as a reference for ASEAN Member States to implement a holistic integrated fire management, supported by community-based fire management approaches.

COP-11 also endorsed the revised Standard Operating Procedure for Monitoring, Assessment and Joint Emergency Response under the ASEAN Agreement on Transboundary Haze Pollution, incorporating Alert Levels, Trigger Points and Actions on Fire Prevention and Suppression.

The five year Sustainable Management of Peatland Forests in Southeast Asia Project (SEApeat) was successfully concluded in January 2016. The Project

co-supported the ASEAN Project on Rehabilitation and Sustainable Use of Peatland Forests in Southeast Asia (2009-2014) by reducing deforestation and degradation of peatland forests through strengthening governance, promoting best practices and developing incentives for sustainable management of peatland forests at regional and site level. The Project was funded by the European Union and implemented by the Global Environment Centre in close collaboration with ASEAN Member States and the ASEAN Secretariat.

COP-11 renewed their commitment to implement the ASEAN Programme on Sustainable Management of Peatland Ecosystems (2014-2020) through ASEAN mechanisms, enhanced national level efforts, and multi-stakeholder partnership.

ASEAN Member States have also agreed to develop a Roadmap on ASEAN Cooperation towards Transboundary Haze Pollution Control with Means of Implementation to outline how ASEAN can become a haze-free region by 2020. The ASEAN Task Force Meeting on the Drafting of the Roadmap was held on 7-9 March 2016 in Chiangmai, Thailand. The Roadmap is planned to be submitted to COP-12 in August 2016 in Malaysia for adoption and to the ASEAN Leaders for notation.

ASEAN Member States are working towards the establishment of the ASEAN Coordinating Centre for Transboundary Haze Pollution Control within this year.

ASEAN Health Ministers Meeting (AHMM)

| | |
|------------------|--|
| Established | 1980, meets every two years |
| Last Meeting | 12 th AHMM, 15-19 September 2014, Ha Noi, Viet Nam; and other related Meetings with Plus Three Countries and with China |
| Senior Officials | Senior Officials Meeting on Health Development (SOMHD) |

Special Video Conference Meeting of ASEAN Plus Three Health Ministers on the Threat of MERS-CoV, 27 July 2015

This meeting reached agreements on the preparedness and response strategies and potential interventions of the region to the threat of Middle East Respiratory Syndrome



The launching of ASEAN Risk Assessment Centre for Food Safety.

Coronavirus (MERS-CoV). The Health Ministers shared experiences and approaches in ensuring disease surveillance preparation and responses, including public risk communication; and adopted the Joint Statement of the ASEAN Plus Three Health Ministers Special Video Conference Meeting on the Threat of MERS-CoV in the region.

ASEAN Post 2015 Health Development Agenda (APHDA)

The ASEAN Post 2015 Health Development Agenda, as endorsed in September 2014 by the AHMM, was operationalised through the endorsement of the Governance and Implementation Mechanism (GIM) and drafting of Health Cluster Strategies and corresponding Regional Programme Strategies and Targets (RST). These outputs resulted from the 4th SOMHD Work Group Meeting for the APHDA on November 2015 in Bangkok, Thailand.

The health cluster approach will be utilised in implementing the four cluster categories composed of Promoting Healthy Lifestyles; Responding to All Hazards and Emerging Threats; Strengthening Health System and Access to Care, and Ensuring Food Safety. There

are 20 priorities in the work programmes of these Health Clusters that will be operationalised from 2016 to 2020. These include, amongst others, cross-cutting issues on non-communicable diseases (NCD) and risk factors, universal health coverage, emerging infectious diseases and pandemics, anti-microbial drug resistance, HIV/AIDS, disaster health management, and maternal and child health.

Other Salient Updates in the ASEAN Health Cooperation

The progress of the ASEAN Health Cooperation, as directed by the 10th SOMHD in September 2015, includes:

- Endorsement of the plan of action to operationalise the ASEAN-China memorandum of understanding in health cooperation that includes collaboration on prevention and control of communicable diseases and non-communicable diseases, public health emergency response mechanism and capacity for mitigating health impacts of natural disasters, human resource development for health, traditional medicine, pharmaceutical development including vaccine, and food safety and rapid alert system.

- Endorsement of the Project on Strengthening the ASEAN Regional Capacity on Disaster Health Management (ASEAN ARCH Project) which aims at strengthening the regional coordination and cooperation on disaster health management during the acute stage of disaster in the region. This resulted from the agreements made at the 3rd ASEAN-JICA Disaster Medicine Meeting, 7-9 July 2015 in Bangkok, Thailand.
- Recommendations from the 2nd ASEAN-Japan Active Ageing Regional Conference on 3-5 August 2015 in Koh Samui, Thailand were utilised in the programming of the health priority on active ageing in the APHDA. These include elderly health prevention and promotion of active ageing, human resource development for long term care, specialised care in older adults, and collaboration on active ageing.
- Recommendations from the 2nd ASEAN Regional Forum on NCD and the ASEAN-Japan Health Forum on 25-27 August 2015 in Jakarta, Indonesia were utilised in the programming of promoting healthy lifestyles and implementation of the ASEAN-Japan Health Initiative on NCDs.
- Specific programme areas of collaboration to implement the ASEAN WHO Memorandum of Understanding for the period of 2016 to 2017 were finalised by the ASEAN-WHO High Level Coordination Meeting on 29 February 2016 in Bangkok, Thailand.
- The ASEAN Risk Assessment Center (ARAC) for Food Safety was officially launched on 22 March 2016 in Putrajaya, Malaysia. ARAC aims to be a regional coordinating centre for independent food safety risk assessment, formulate scientific opinions and provide advice on the safety of food in ASEAN Member States.
- The Regional Report on Nutrition Security in ASEAN Volume 2 was simultaneously launched by ASEAN, WHO and UNICEF on 28 March 2016. The report shares the situation of over and under nutrition in the region with some children being overweight, while others suffer from stunting and wasting.

| ASEAN Labour Ministers Meeting (ALMM) | |
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| Established | 1975, meets once in two years |
| Last Meeting | 24 th ASEAN Labour Ministers Meeting (ALMM), 15 May 2016, Vientiane, Lao PDR |
| Senior Officials | ASEAN Senior Labour Officials Meeting (SLOM) |

The ASEAN Labour Ministers' (ALM') Work Programme 2010-2015 and Work Plans of the Working Group on Progressive Labour Practice to Enhance the Competitiveness of ASEAN (SLOM-WG), ASEAN Occupational Safety and Health Network (ASEAN-OSHNET) and ASEAN Committee on the Implementation of ASEAN Declaration on the Protection and Promotion of the Rights of Migrant Workers (ACMW) have been concluded. All projects had been addressed including the development of the ASEAN Guiding Principles for Quality Assurance and Recognition of Competency Certification Systems, ASEAN Guidelines for Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) on Labour, and ASEAN Guidelines on Essential Workplace Action for Enterprises on the Prevention and Management of HIV and AIDS.

The ASEAN Inter-Pillar Policy Dialogue on the Impact of ASEAN Economic Integration in the Labour Sector was held on 21 March 2016 in Kuala Lumpur, bringing together for the first time, senior officials from economic and social pillars together to exchange views on opportunities and challenges brought about by the AEC in the labour sector and challenges facing female workers.

The inaugural ASEAN-OSHNET (Occupational Safety and Health Network) Awards Ceremony was convened on 27 March 2016 in Da Nang, Viet Nam. Eight enterprises from ASEAN Member States were nominated for the excellence category, and six small and medium-size enterprises (SMEs) were nominated for the best practices category. The Awards was in recognition of companies' excellent achievements in improving safety and health in the workplace.

The 5th ASEAN Labour Inspection Conference was convened on 11-12 November 2015 in Yogyakarta, Indonesia under the theme: "Ensuring Labour Inspection through Information and Communication Technology (ICT)." The Conference provided a platform for sharing



ASEAN OSHNET Awards Ceremony, Da Nang, Viet Nam, 26-28 April 2016.

experiences and views on how ICT had been applied to enhance the capacity of labour inspectors in performing their tasks especially on occupational safety and health inspection.

Viet Nam hosted the Regional Workshop on Gender Mainstreaming into Employment and Labour Policies towards Decent Work for All on 19-20 November 2015 in Ho Chi Minh City as a platform for ASEAN Member States to share good practices in mainstreaming gender in labour laws, policies and practices to promote decent work for all workers. A compendium of the good practices will be published this year.

In protecting and promoting the rights of migrant workers, the 8th ASEAN Forum on Migrant Labour was held on 26-27 October 2015 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. Under the overarching theme of “Empowering the ASEAN Community through Protection and Promotion of the Rights of Migrant Workers”, the governments, workers’ organisations, employers’ organisations and civil society organisations from ASEAN Member States dialogued on issues concerning occupational health and safety (OSH) awareness among employers and migrant workers; role of stakeholders to improve labour law compliance on OSH and employment conditions, and effectiveness of labour inspection.

The 24th ASEAN Labour Ministers Meeting (ALMM) and related meetings were successfully convened on 10-16 May 2016 in Vientiane, Lao PDR, under the theme “Transition from Informal Employment to Formal Employment towards Decent Work Promotion

in ASEAN.” Recognising the prevalence of informal employment in the region which could lead to decent work deficits of ASEAN working populations, the ASEAN Labour Leaders adopted the Vientiane Declaration on Transition from Informal Employment to Formal Employment towards Decent Work Promotion in ASEAN. The Declaration will be submitted to the 28th ASEAN Summit for adoption. The 24th ALMM also adopted the new ALM’ Work Programme 2016-2020 and Work Plans 2016-2020 of SLOM-WG, ASEAN-OSHNET and ACMW which will contribute to the implementation of labour-related priorities in the ASCC Blueprint 2025.

| ASEAN Ministers Meeting on Rural Development and Poverty Eradication (AMRDPE) | |
|--|---|
| Established | 1997, meets once every two years |
| Last Meeting | 9 th AMRDPE, 17 October 2015, Vientiane, Lao PDR |
| Senior Officials | ASEAN Senior Officials Meeting on Rural Development and Poverty Eradication (SOMRDPE) |

The Senior Officials Meeting on Rural Development and Poverty Eradication continues to implement projects and activities in the Framework Action Plan on Rural Development and Poverty Eradication 2011-2015. The ASEAN Regional Assessment on MDG Achievements

and Post-2015 Development Agenda was completed in August 2015 in collaboration with the UNDP. The Report was published and is available on the ASEAN website.

The Second ASEAN Leadership Awards on Rural Development and Poverty Eradication were conferred by the AMRDPE Ministers and Secretary-General of ASEAN on 17 October 2016 in Vientiane, Lao PDR, to ten national Non-Government Organisations (NGOs) which displayed outstanding achievements and contributions to poverty reduction and development within local communities, namely: the Council of Women Brunei Darussalam, Australian Catholic Relief (Cambodia), Yayasan BITRA Indonesia, Poverty Reduction Fund Project (Lao PDR), Angkatan Zaman Mansang (Malaysia), Network Activities Group (Myanmar), Pambansang Kilusan ng mga Samahang Magsasaka (The Philippines), Lions Befrienders Service Association (Singapore), Promotion of Human Resources for Community Development Foundation (Thailand), and the Centre for Sustainable Rural Development (Viet Nam).

A compendium of the NGO profiles was published by the ASEAN Secretariat and is available on the ASEAN website. In conjunction with the Awards Ceremony, the Fourth Forum on Rural Development and Poverty Eradication was convened with the theme “Public, Private and People Partnerships (4Ps) for the Post-2015 Sustainable Development in ASEAN.”

The ASEAN Regional Expo on Community Products (OTOP/OVOP) was convened on 8-16 August 2015 in Bangkok, Thailand. The participating ASEAN Member States shared information and exchanged views on strategies to promote local producers, and showcased their local products during the Expo.

Acknowledging the importance of the financial innovations for poverty eradication, the Ninth ASEAN-China Forum on Social Development and Poverty Eradication was held on 28-29 July 2015 in Vientiane, Lao PDR. The Third ASEAN+3 Village Leaders Exchange Program was convened in November 2015 in Nanning City, Guangxi, China. The village leaders from ASEAN Member States and China shared experiences in implementing community development programmes.

SOMRDPE also continued to collaborate with other relevant ASEAN sectoral bodies. SOMRDPE participated in the Inter-Sectoral Consultative Meeting

on Food Security and Nutrition held on 23-24 February 2016 in Bangkok, Thailand, to discuss collaboration with the Senior Officials Meeting of the ASEAN Ministers for Agriculture and Forestry (SOM-AMAF) on issues concerning the food security and nutrition of the poor communities.

SOMRDPE has developed the new Framework Action Plan on Rural Development and Poverty Eradication for the period of 2016-2020. Guided by the ASCC Blueprint 2025, six priority areas were adopted, namely: rural economic growth; social protection and safety nets; development of infrastructure and human resources in rural and peri-urban areas; Public-Private-People-Partnership (4Ps) for rural development and poverty eradication; resilience of the poor and vulnerable groups to economic and environmental risks; and monitoring and evaluation.

ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Women (AMMW)

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|------------------|--|
| Established | 2011, meets once every three years |
| Last Meeting | 2 nd AMMW, 23 October 2015, Manila, the Philippines |
| Senior Officials | ASEAN Committee on Women (ACW) |

Guided by the directives of the ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Women (AMMW), joint actions to promote women’s empowerment and gender equality in the region continued to be implemented by the ASEAN Committee on Women (ACW). The ACW Work Plan 2016-2020 was finalised and adopted at the 14th ACW Meeting. The five year work plan will guide the future efforts of ACW in promoting gender equality and the empowerment of all women.

The Regional Training on Social Protection and Gender Budget Analysis for the ASEAN Member States was conducted in June 2015 in Manila, the Philippines. The regional training was a follow-up of the Regional Training on Social Protection and Gender Budget Analysis held in August 2014 in Jakarta, Indonesia. Officials from the ministries of finance and ministries in-charge of women’s issue were provided an opportunity to exchange views

and knowledge on integrating gender perspectives in social protection budget policies at the national level. The participating officials also gained knowledge on developing gender responsive allocation of resources and promoting transparency and accountability of the government's budget. The regional training was supported by the Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung (FES).

The ACW has worked on mainstreaming gender analysis in appreciating issues related to climate change. The conduct of the Inter-Ministerial Workshop on Gender Issues in Climate Change and Its Adaptation in June 2015 in Langkawi, Malaysia, provided a platform to move forward the recommendations arising from the ASEAN Commission on the Protection and Promotion of the Rights of Women and Children (ACWC)-led Regional Conference on the Social Impact of Climate Change on Women and Children held on 25-26 March 2015 in Phnom Penh, Cambodia.

The ACW continued its collaboration with the Senior Labour Official Meeting (SLOM) through the conduct of the Regional Workshop on Gender Mainstreaming in Labour Policies to Promote Decent Work for All, which was held in November 2015 in Ho Chi Minh City, Viet Nam. The regional workshop provided a platform to share good practices in mainstreaming gender in labour laws, policies and practices to promote decent work for all.

The Regional Study on Projected Gender Impact of the ASEAN Economic Community was completed in collaboration with the Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung (FES) and UN Women Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific. The Report highlighted the impact of integrating the economies within the ASEAN region on women, along with the concomitant opportunities and challenges. Key policy and programme recommendations were surfaced to ensure that the benefits from economic integration would lead to the economic empowerment of women.

The ASEAN Women Entrepreneurs' Network (AWEN) convened the 2nd Women Entrepreneurs' Forum in March 2016 in Ha Noi, Viet Nam with the theme "Fostering Women's Entrepreneur in Advancing the AEC Development". Through the Forum, women entrepreneurs shared experiences and exchanged views on leveraging the potential of women entrepreneurs to contribute to the goals of ASEAN Economic Community, particularly underlining their role as engines of economic

growth. This year, the AWEN Coordination is handed over from Viet Nam (2014-2016) to the Philippines for the period of 2016-2018.

ASEAN Commission on the Protection and Promotion of the Rights of Women and Children (ACWC)

| | |
|--------------|---|
| Established | 2010, meets at least twice a year |
| Last Meeting | Special Meeting of the ACWC, 31 March-3 April 2016, Bangkok, Thailand |

As a follow-up to the ASEAN Declaration on the Elimination of Violence Against Women (EVAW) and Elimination of Violence Against Children (EVAC) in ASEAN, the ACWC developed the Regional Plan of Action on EVAW and Regional Plan of Action on EVAC which were adopted by the ASEAN Leaders at the 27th ASEAN Summit in November 2015. These Regional Plans of Actions had been published and are available on the ASEAN website. A Consultative Meeting with CSOs was jointly convened by the ACWC and Forum Asia on 29-30 March 2016 in Bangkok, Thailand, to identify concrete areas of collaboration to implement the Regional Plans of Actions.

The ACWC had also developed important regional reference documents which will be published this year, namely: i) Gender Sensitive Guideline for Handling Women Victims of Trafficking in Persons; ii) ASEAN Guidelines for a Non-Violent Approach to Nurture, Care, and Development of Children in all Settings; and iii) ASEAN Early Childhood Care, Development and Education (ECCDE) Quality Standards.

Three regional studies are expected to be finalised in 2016, notably: i) Regional Review on Laws, Policies and Practices within ASEAN relating to the Identification, Management and Treatment of Victims of Trafficking, especially Women and Children; ii) Progress Report on Women's Advancement and Gender Equality; and iii) Baseline Study on Child Protection Systems in ASEAN Member States.

The public campaign to stop violence against women is an annual initiative of the ACWC to commemorate the



The 2nd AWEN Awards, Ha Noi, Viet Nam, March 2016.

International Day for Elimination of VAW. For 2015, the focus was on violence against women throughout the life cycle. A video was developed and can be accessed through <http://aseanevaw.org/evawc-in-asean/th/video-violence-against-women-throughout-the-life-cycle/>.

The ACWC continues its cooperation with the ASEAN Inter-Governmental Commission on Human Rights (AICHR) by extending invitations to their respective activities. The ACWC participated in several workshops organised by AICHR to discuss the issues of mainstreaming the rights of persons with disabilities in the ASEAN Community, impacts of the ASEAN integration to children, and human rights-based approach to combat trafficking in persons especially women and children.

The ACWC and ASEAN Committee on Women (ACW) agreed to collaborate in the areas of gender and climate change, gender and school curriculum, and gender and migrant workers. Currently, the project on engendering school curriculum with a view to eliminate stereotyping women and sexist languages is on-going as a joint collaboration between ACWC and ACW. The ACWC also continued its cooperation with the Senior Officials Meeting on Transnational Crimes (SOMTC) on issues related to trafficking in persons. The ACWC welcomed the identification of areas of cooperation with SOMTC under the framework of the ASEAN Plan of Action Against Trafficking in Persons.

The ACWC continues to work with the relevant agencies of the United Nations. At the 12th ACWC Meeting on 18 February 2016 at the ASEAN Secretariat, ACWC had the third interface dialogue with Mdm. Marta Pais, Special Representative of the UN Secretary General on Violence against Children (SRSG-VAC). ACWC issued a Statement to support the SRSG-VAC's High Time Movement to put an end to violence against children, which was launched at the session of the United Nations Human Rights Council in Geneva, Switzerland, in March 2016.

ASEAN Ministerial Meeting for Social Welfare and Development (AMMSWD)

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|------------------|---|
| Established | 1979, meets once every three years |
| Last Meeting | 8 th AMMSWD, 6 September 2013, Siem Reap, Cambodia |
| Senior Officials | ASEAN Senior Officials Meeting on Social Welfare and Development (SOMSWD) |

SOMSWD continues to implement projects and activities planned in the Strategic Framework on Social Welfare and Development (2011-2015) focusing on children,

older people and persons with disabilities. Following the ASEAN Declaration on Strengthening Social Protection adopted at the 23rd ASEAN Summit, the Regional Framework and Action Plan was developed by SOMSWD in collaboration with other relevant ASEAN sectoral bodies and adopted at the 27th ASEAN Summit. The Regional Framework and Action Plan had been published by the ASEAN Secretariat and is available at the ASEAN website.

The Kuala Lumpur Declaration on Ageing: Empowering Older Persons in ASEAN was adopted at the 27th ASEAN Summit as a commitment to promote healthy, active, and productive environment for older persons in the region. A series of policy exchange activities were convened to enhance institutional capacity in providing care for older persons, notably: the ASEAN-Republic of Korea Conference on Community-based Services for Older Persons in Battambang, Cambodia on 26-29 May 2015; Regional Conference on Caring and Self-Caring for the Elderly at Homes, Communities Based on their Involvement: Roles of the Government on 16-17 June 2015 in Long Hai Town, Viet Nam; and ASEAN+3 Regional Conference on Age-Friendly Environment on 25-26 February 2016 in Chiang Mai, Thailand.

A series of policy exchange activities concerning the welfare of persons with disabilities were also convened. The ASEAN Conference on Program Evaluation of Persons with Disabilities was convened on 1-3 March 2016 in Manila, the Philippines. The Conference on Caring for Elderly in ASEAN Plus Three: Research and Policy Challenges in Long-term Care was held on 1-2 March 2016 in Singapore. The Regional Workshop on the Promotion of a Non-Handicapping Environment for Persons with Disabilities was convened on 16-22 November 2015 in Bangkok, Thailand. The Regional Workshop on Community-Based Rehabilitation: Way Forward to Sustainable Development was convened on 20-24 July 2015 in Bangkok, Thailand.

SOMSWD also continues its engagement with stakeholders. The 4th Conference of the ASEAN Social Work Consortium (ASWC) was held on 5-7 August 2015 in Phuket, Thailand, to discuss progress of work aimed at strengthening institutional capacity of social work and social welfare institutions in the region. SOMSWD also held a dialogue with non-governmental organisations (NGOs) on issues concerning empowerment of older

persons during the 10th ASEAN GO-NGO forum on Social Welfare and Development held on 7 September in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

The new Strategic Framework on Social Welfare and Development 2016-2020 had been developed by SOMSWD. The social welfare and development of children, persons with disabilities, and older persons continue to be the primary attention, while issues concerning family development, social work, and other vulnerable groups are also part of the new 5-year priorities.

| ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Youth (AMMY) | |
|--|--|
| Established | 1992, meets biennially |
| Last Meeting | AMMY IX, 4 June 2015, Siem Reap, Cambodia |
| Senior Officials | ASEAN Senior Officials Meeting on Youth (SOMY) |

The recent focus of ASEAN on a truly people-oriented and people-centred ASEAN Community has provided an avenue for the greater participation and role of youth in promoting the ASEAN Community. This has also raised awareness on the importance of preparing youth to become the future leaders of ASEAN.

The year 2015 saw the implementation of the Japan-East Asia Network of Exchange for Students and Youths (JENESYS) 2015 for ASEAN which benefitted 2,071 young people from ASEAN Member States and Japan through 76 programmes on various themes including culture, sports, technology, and other social sciences.

A number of youth-focused activities were conducted in 2015 including the ASEAN+3 Young Entrepreneurs Forum which was hosted by Viet Nam in Ha Noi from 11 to 14 December 2015 with the theme “ASEAN+3 Young Entrepreneurs towards Sustainable Development Goals.” With support from the United States Government, the Young Southeast Asian Leaders Initiative (YSEALI) Generation: ASEAN Education for the 21st Century Workshop was held in Bangkok, Thailand from 12 to 16 December 2015 which provided young people the opportunity to participate in hands-on training and peer networking with the aim of developing leadership skills.

Two annual events were held in the Republic of Korea which included the 17th ASEAN-Korea Future-Oriented Youth Exchange (FOYE) Programme was held in Seoul from 27 January to 1 February 2016 on the theme “ASEAN-Korea Youth Coming Together through Cultural Exchange.” The other event was the 5th ASEAN-Korea Frontier Forum (AKFF) in Busan from 17 to 24 February 2016.

The FOYE was hosted by the National Council of Youth Organizations in Korea with 67 ASEAN and 20 Korean participants. The AKFF was convened by the by the Asia Exchange Association and with funding support from the ASEAN-ROK Future Oriented Cooperation Fund for 68 ASEAN and 17 Korean participants.

The annual ASEAN Youth Volunteer Programme (AVYP) was held in Cambodia from 2 to 28 August 2015. Out of 2,500 applicants in 2015, 49 volunteers were selected and underwent intensive and knowledge-driven community immersion that focused on the twin themes of environment and climate change.

Under the leadership of Cambodia and with the aim to maintain the momentum for youth participation and youth development in ASEAN, the ASEAN Senior Officials Meeting on Youth (SOMY) formulated the first five-year ASEAN Work Plan on Youth 2016-2020. The major areas of ASEAN cooperation on Youth include: (i) youth entrepreneurship; (ii) youth employability; (iii) enhancing awareness and appreciation of an ASEAN Community; (iv) youth involvement and participation: and (v) youth competencies and resilience.

As a key component of the ASEAN Work Plan on Youth 2016-2020, the ASEAN Youth Sector continued the discussion on the development of an ASEAN Youth Development Index that would assist ASEAN Member States to keep track on the evaluation of the outcomes and effectiveness of youth initiatives, and provide the right environment for young people to participate in, and benefit from ASEAN Community building.

Youth Representatives in group discussion at ASEAN Plus Three Youth Environment Forum 2016.



| Heads of Civil Service Meeting for the ASEAN Cooperation on Civil Service Matters (ACCSM) | |
|--|---|
| Established | 1980, Heads of Civil Service Meeting for the ASEAN Cooperation on Civil Service Matters (ACCSM) formerly called ASEAN Conference on Reform in the Civil Service (ARCS), meets every two years |
| Last Meeting | ASEAN Head of Civil Service Retreat, 17 November 2015, Cyberjaya, Malaysia |
| Senior Officials | Senior Officials Meeting for the ASEAN Cooperation on Civil Service Matters (ACCSM SOM) |

Pursuant to the decision of the ASEAN Heads of Civil Service (AHOCS) Retreat on 17 November 2015 in Cyberjaya, Malaysia, the name of the ASEAN Conference on Civil Service Matters has been revised to become the ASEAN Cooperation on Civil Service Matters in order to accurately reflect the continuous work of ACCSM. Furthermore, six out of the ten ASEAN Resource Centres (ARCs) adopted new themes in order to be responsive to the current human and institutional capacity needs of civil service, namely: Managing Civil Service Competency (Brunei Darussalam), Public Service Delivery (Cambodia), ASEAN Pool of Experts on Civil Service (Indonesia), Strategic Collaboration through National Blue Ocean Strategy (Malaysia), ASEAN Leaders in Strategic Human Resource Programme-Building a Future-Ready Public Service (Singapore), and Supporting Public Service Reform (Viet Nam). The ARCs hosted by Lao PDR, Myanmar, Thailand, and Viet Nam will continue with their current themes of Civil Service Performance Management, Training for Trainers for Civil Service, Examination and Testing, and Leadership Development, respectively.

All projects and activities planned in the ACCSM Work Plan 2008-2015 and ACCSM+3 Work Plan 2012-2015 have been addressed. Some of the activities implemented in 2015-2016 were: A Workshop on Project Planning and Management held on 15-18 June 2015 in Singapore, and Study Visits on Public Sector Productivity and Innovative Focusing on Performance Management

to China on 11-15 January 2016 and to Japan on 7-11 March 2016.

The ASEAN Heads of Civil Service signed the Putrajaya Joint Declaration on ASEAN Post-2015 Priorities towards an ASEAN Citizen-Centric Civil Service on 17 November 2015 in Cyberjaya, Malaysia. The Joint Declaration reflects the commitment to take concrete actions in the areas of good governance and integrity, capacity building, public sector reform and service delivery, efficiency, accountability and participatory approach as well as international networking. The commitment was translated into projects and activities in the new ACCSM Work Plan for 2016-2020. Thirty one projects and initiatives were planned to address the priorities of (i) enhancing workforce competencies and standards in the public sector; (ii) building institutional capacities; (iii) strengthening leaderships; (iv) strengthening ARCs; and (v) public sector reform.

Furthermore, thirteen projects and activities were planned in the ACCSM+3 Work Plan 2016-2020 under the thematic areas of: (i) e-governance; (ii) Human Resource Management and Human Resource Development; (iii) Productivity in Public Sector; (iv) Good Governance; (v) Public Sector Reform; (vi) Local Administration Capacity Building and Cooperation; and (vii) Research and Innovation.

| ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Sports (AMMS) | |
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| Established | 2011, meets biennially |
| Last Meeting | 2 nd AMMS, 13 August 2015, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia |
| Senior Officials | ASEAN Senior Officials Meeting on Sports (SOMS) |

The ASEAN Member States continue to accord recognition to sports and its role in fostering social inclusion of ASEAN citizens and mutual understanding among them. Sports is highly effective in increasing the awareness of ASEAN among its people. It is also an effective means of bringing people together and enhancing people-to-people connectivity.

This recognition of ASEAN Leaders is also in line with the Resolution of the United Nations General Assembly



The Opening of ACCSM Civil Service Games, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, November 2015.

on Sports on 20 October 2015 which reaffirms the role of sports in bringing about positive social change. Sports continues to serve as a tool in building camaraderie and peace and builds accountable, effective and inclusive institutions which is consistent with the Goal 16 of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Following the conclusion of the ASCC Blueprint 2009-2015 and guided by the overarching ASEAN Post-

2015 Vision and ASCC Blueprint 2025, Malaysia as Chairperson of the ASEAN Education Ministers Meeting on Sports (AMMS) and the ASEAN Senior Officials Meeting on Sports (SOMS), led the development of the ASEAN Work Plan on Sports 2016-2020. The ASEAN Work Plan on Sports aims to contribute to the promotion and development of sports as an instrument of harmony, peace and well-being of the peoples of ASEAN. The four key areas of the ASEAN Work Plan on Sports include:



Increasing awareness of ASEAN among its people through sports.

(i) ASEAN awareness through sporting activities, (ii) sense of ASEAN Community development through sports exchange programmes, (iii) sense of resilience with healthy lifestyles, and (iv) sports dynamism, competitiveness and competencies through capacity building and skills programmes.

Youth activities that provided specific focus on Sports in 2015 included the Japan-East Asia Network of Exchange for Students and Youths (JENESYS) 2015 and the ASEAN-Korea Future-Oriented Youth Exchange Programme. Under the JENESYS2015 for ASEAN, four programmes were dedicated for the theme of Sports. In the same manner, the 17th ASEAN-Korea Future-Oriented Youth Exchange Programme which was held from 27 January to 1 February 2016 in Seoul and Gyeonggi-Do, Republic of Korea, included a component that focused on Sports and excursions for winter sports experience.

The year 2015 also saw the establishment of the ASEAN Plus Japan Ministerial Meeting on Sports (AMMS+Japan) Framework which is in support of the Vision Statement on ASEAN-Japan Friendship and Cooperation, and is aligned with the ASEAN Work Plan on Sports 2016-2020. This development marked a significant progress which is expected to offer strategic directions towards policy dialogue, coordination and promotion of friendly relations and deeper cooperation between ASEAN and Japan in the field of Sports.



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 and yellow symbolises prosperity.

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

The specification of Pantone Colour adopted for the colours of the ASEAN Emblem are:

Blue : Pantone 286
Red : Pantone Red 032
Yellow : Pantone Process Yellow

For four-colour printing process, the specifications of colours will be:

Blue : 100C 60M 0Y 6K (100C 60M 0Y 10K)
Red : 0C 91M 87Y 0K (0C 90M 90Y 0K)
Yellow : 0C 0M 100Y 0K

Specifications in brackets are to be used when an arbitrary measurement of process colours is not possible.

In Pantone Process Colour Simulator, the specifications equal to:

Blue : Pantone 204-1
Red : Pantone 60-1
Yellow : Pantone 1-3

The font used for the word "ASEAN" in the Emblem is lower-case Helvetica in bold.



The ASEAN Flag represents a stable, peaceful, united and dynamic ASEAN. The colours of the Flag - blue, red, white and yellow - represent the main colours of the flags of all the ASEAN Member States.

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

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

The specification of Pantone Colour adopted for the colours of the ASEAN Flag are:

Blue : Pantone 19-4053 TC
Red : Pantone 18-1655 TC
White : Pantone 11-4202 TC
Yellow : Pantone 13-0758 TC

For the printed version, the specifications of colours (except white) will follow those for the colours of the ASEAN Emblem, i.e.:

Blue : Pantone 286 or Process Colour 100C 60M 0Y 6K
Red : Pantone Red 032 Process Colour 0C 91M 87Y 0K
Yellow : Pantone Process Yellow Process Colour 0C 0M 100Y 0K

The ratio of the width to the length of the Flag is two to three and the size specifications for the official flags are:

Table Flag : 10 cm x 15 cm
Room Flag : 100 cm x 150 cm
Car Flag : 10 cm x 30 cm
Field Flag : 200 cm x 300 cm

Soprano

ASEAN Anthem: The ASEAN WAY

Lyricist : Payom Valaiphachra

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

Allegretto Maestoso ♩=100

5 **A**

Raise our flag high, sky high Em-brace the pride in our

mp

9 heart A-SEAN we are bonded as one Look-in out to the world. For

B

14 peace, our goal from the ve - ry start And pros - pe ri ty to last. We

mf *po co a po co cresc.*

C

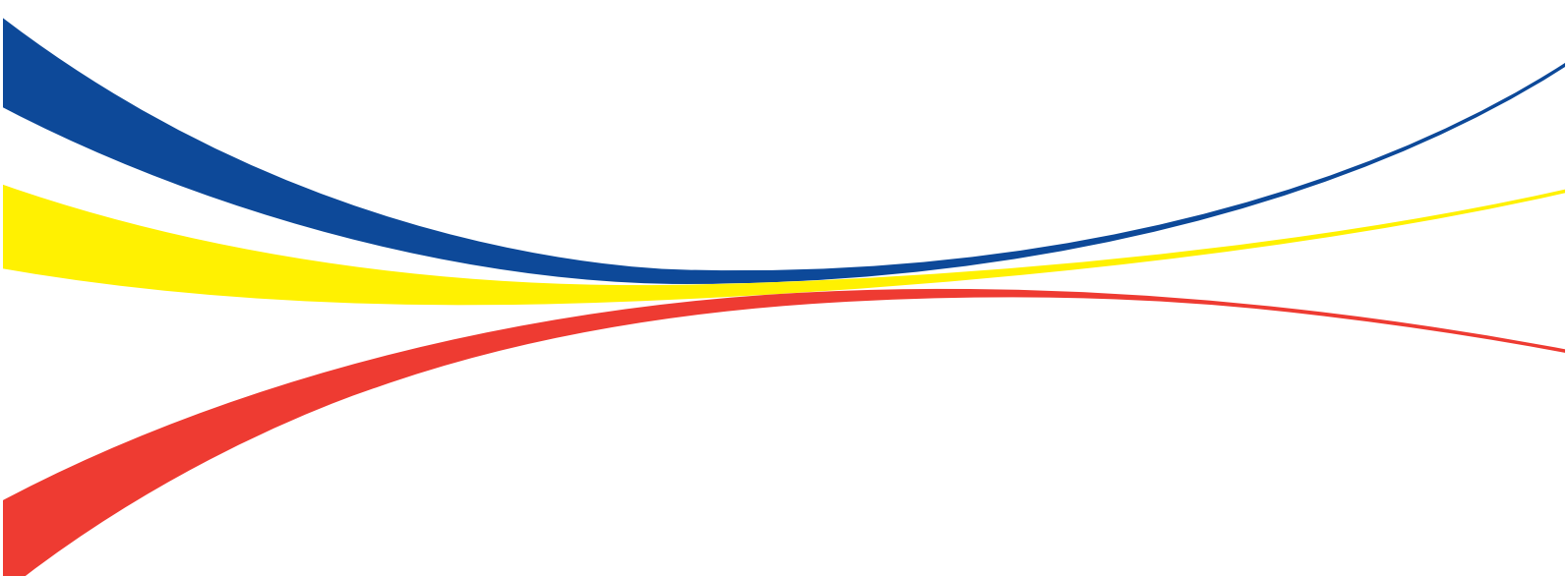
18 dare to dream we care to share. To - ge - ther for A - SEAN we

f *mf*

22 dare to dream we care to share for it's the way of A - SEAN

f *rit.* *ff*

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