

INFORMATION PAPER ASEAN INSTITUTE FOR PEACE AND RECONCILIATION (ASEAN-IPR)

A. Background: ASEAN Community

1. The Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) was established in 8 August 1967 with the signing of the ASEAN Declaration by the Founding Fathers of ASEAN, namely Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore and Thailand. Membership of the Association has been expanded with Brunei Darussalam (1984), Viet Nam (1995), Lao PDR and Myanmar (1997) and Cambodia (1999).
2. ASEAN's Aims & Purposes:
 - a. Amongst the aims of purposes of ASEAN, as set out in the ASEAN Declaration, are:
 - i. To accelerate the economic growth, social progress and cultural development in the region;
 - ii. To promote regional peace and stability; and,
 - iii. To promote active collaboration and mutual assistance on matters of common interest in the economic, social, cultural, technical, scientific and administrative fields.
 - b. Thus, cooperation in ASEAN at the beginning tends to focus more on the economic & socio-cultural sectors.
3. Treaty of Amity and Cooperation:
 - a. In 1976, the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in Southeast Asia (TAC) was founded and adopted by ASEAN Member States – setting fundamental principles in their relations to one another, and to all peace-loving nations within and outside Southeast Asia. Such principles include:
 - i. Mutual respect for the independence, sovereignty, equality, territorial integrity, and national identity of all nations;
 - ii. The right of every State to lead its national existence free from external interference, subversion or coercion;
 - iii. Non-interference in the internal affairs of one another;
 - iv. Settlement of differences or disputes by peaceful manner;
 - v. Renunciation of the threat or use of force; and,
 - vi. Effective cooperation amongst themselves.
 - b. The TAC therefore becomes the foundation on what would become the political-security pillar of ASEAN Community.
4. ASEAN Community:

The idea of an ASEAN Community was resolved by the ASEAN Leaders in 2003, following ASEAN Vision 2020 – a shared vision of ASEAN as a concert of Southeast Asian nations, outward looking, living in peace, stability and prosperity, bonded together in partnership in dynamic development and in a community of caring societies. The ASEAN Community comprises of three pillars – namely ASEAN Political-Security Community (APSC), ASEAN

Economic Community (AEC), and ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community (ASCC); each having their own Blueprint in realising the Community.

5. ASEAN Political-Security Community (APSC):

The ASEAN political-security cooperation is aimed at promoting ASEAN fundamental principles, shared values and norms as well as principles of international law governing peaceful conduct among States, thereby enhancing regional peace and stability. The cooperation is also aimed at strengthening ASEAN unity and cohesiveness to build a more democratic, transparent, just, rules-based and inclusive Community that shares the values of tolerance and moderation.

6. ASEAN Charter:

- a. In 2007, the ASEAN Charter was signed by the Leaders – giving a firm foundation in achieving the ASEAN Community by providing legal status, as well as an institutional framework for ASEAN.
- b. The Charter also codifies:
 - i. ASEAN norms, rules and values;
 - ii. Sets clear targets for ASEAN; and,
 - iii. Presents accountability and compliance.
- c. The ASEAN Charter entered into force on 15 December 2008
- d. ASEAN would henceforth operate under a new legal framework and establish a number of new organs to boost its community-building process.

7. The ASEAN Community is officially established on 31 December 2015. Moving forward, the Leaders adopted the ASEAN Community Vision 2025, along with subsequent Blueprints for each Community Pillar – succeeding the previous Blueprints.

8. Difference and/or disputes within ASEAN may persist to this day. But all Member States are deeply committed to resolving their differences through peaceful means and in the spirit of mutual accommodation. Every dispute would have its proper season but it would not be allowed to get in the way of the task at hand – people-oriented and people-centred ASEAN Community.

B. Establishment of the ASEAN Institute for Peace and Reconciliation (ASEAN-IPR)

9. The ASEAN Institute for Peace and Reconciliation (ASEAN-IPR) was established under Provision B.2.2 of the APSC Blueprint (2010-2015), which aims to “*strengthen research activities on peace, conflict management and conflict resolution*” – namely the first action line (i), which “*consider the establishment of an ASEAN Institute for Peace and Reconciliation*”.

10. At the 18th ASEAN Summit on 8 May 2011, the ASEAN Leaders Adopted a “Joint Statement on the Establishment of an ASEAN Institute for Peace and Reconciliation”. Following, the 19th ASEAN Summit views to officially launch the establishment of ASEAN Institute for Peace and Reconciliation as an

entity associated with ASEAN in 2012, during Cambodia's Chairmanship of ASEAN.

11. The Terms of Reference (TOR) of the ASEAN Institute for Peace and Reconciliation (ASEAN-IPR) was adopted by the 45th ASEAN Foreign Ministers Meeting (AMM) in July 2012.
12. On **18 November 2012**, the ASEAN Leaders officially launched the ASEAN Institute for Peace and Reconciliation (ASEAN-IPR), on the side-lines of the 21st ASEAN Summit in Phnom Penh, Cambodia.
13. On 1 February 2018, the "Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Indonesia and the ASEAN Institute for Peace and Reconciliation (ASEAN-IPR) on Hosting and Granting Privileges and Immunities to the ASEAN Institute for Peace and Reconciliation" (**Host Country Agreement**) was signed, witnessed by the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Indonesia and the Chair of the Governing Council. Members of the Governing Council and Advisory Board of ASEAN-IPR, as well as Members of the Committee of Permanent Representatives to ASEAN were also in attendance.

C. Mandates & Functions of the ASEAN-IPR

14. Pursuant to its Terms of Reference (TOR), ASEAN-IPR's **Mandate** Include:
 - a. To be an ASEAN institution for research activities on peace, conflict management and conflict resolution
 - b. Promotion of activities agreed in the ASEAN Political-Security Community (APSC) Blueprint, and additional activities as agreed by ASEAN Member States
15. Furthermore, in accordance with its TOR, ASEAN-IPR **functions** to undertake the following activities:
 - a. **Research**
 - i. Undertake research and compile ASEAN's experiences and best practices on peace, conflict management and conflict resolution as well as post-conflict peace-building, with the view to providing appropriate recommendations, upon request by ASEAN Member States, to ASEAN Bodies
 - ii. Undertake studies to promote gender mainstreaming in peace building, peace process and conflict resolution
 - iii. Study and analyse existing dispute settlement mechanisms in ASEAN with a view to enhancing regional mechanisms for the pacific settlement of disputes
 - b. **Capacity Building**
 - i. Hold workshops on peace, conflict management, conflict resolution
 - ii. Hold Seminars/Workshops/Trainings in promoting the voice of moderation to contribute to the Global Movement of the Moderates, as well as to advance work in the area of interfaith dialogue

- iii. Knowledge building among relevant government officials, scholars or think-tanks on conflict management resolution
- c. **Pool of Expertise and Support for ASEAN Bodies**
 - i. Develop a pool of experts from AMS as resource persons to assist in conflict management and conflict resolution activities
 - ii. Where appropriate and at the request of ASEAN governments, provide policy recommendations to ASEAN governments on promotion of peace and reconciliation based on their own studies, as well as facilitation for peace negotiation
 - iii. Assist ASEAN bodies, upon request of ASEAN Member States, on activities and initiatives related to peace, reconciliation, conflict management and conflict resolution
- d. **Networking**
 - i. Function as a knowledge hub by establishing linkages/network with relevant institutions and organisations in AMS, as well as other regions, and at the international level, which have similar objectives aimed at promoting a culture of peace
 - ii. Collaborate with relevant UN agencies, regional organisations and international think-tanks to exchange expertise and experiences on peace, conflict management, conflict resolution
- e. **Dissemination of Information**
 - i. Disseminate best practices, lessons learned and relevant information to AMS
 - ii. Outreach and engagement with the civil society and other relevant stakeholders to promote peace, reconciliation, conflict management, conflict resolution and peace-building
 - iii. Promote awareness of the work of the Institute among the general public

16. The APSC Blueprint 2025 aims to build upon the achievements that have been made in the previous Blueprint (2009-2015) to elevate ASEAN political and security cooperation to an even higher level. In this regard, and in line with the TOR of ASEAN-IPR, the APSC Blueprint holds 10 action lines in which ASEAN-IPR is to be the implementing body.

D. Structure of the ASEAN-IPR

17. Governing Council:

- a. The Governing Council (GC) is the highest decision-making body of ASEAN-IPR, consisting a representative from each ASEAN Member State (AMS) to be appointed by and accountable to the respective appointing Governments, along with the Secretary-General of ASEAN and the Executive Director (who serve as Ex-Officio Members of the Council).
- b. The Council's work includes formulation of guidelines and procedures for activities, funding and budget of the institute.
- c. Under the TOR of ASEAN-IPR, the GC is to meet at least twice a year.

- d. The Governing Council works in accordance with the TOR of ASEAN-IPR, and the Rules of Procedures of the Governing Council of ASEAN-IPR.

18. Advisory Board:

- a. The Advisory Board (AB) is responsible to **advise the GC on the research priorities** of the Institute.
- b. Similar to the GC, the AB comprises of a representative from each AMS, consisting of eminent persons in the field of peace and reconciliation.
- c. The Executive Director of ASEAN-IPR is also an Ex-Officio Member of the AB.

19. Executive Director:

- a. The Executive Director (ED) of ASEAN-IPR is responsible to represent the Institute in all administrative and operational matters and manage activities of the Institute.
- b. The ED is also the head of the ASEAN-IPR Secretariat, responsible in the daily day-to-day operations of the Secretariat.
- c. The Executive Director is responsible to the Governing Council, and is responsible to make regular reports on the work of ASEAN-IPR to the relevant Senior Officials to the ASEAN Political-Security Community (APSC) Council.
- d. The first ED of ASEAN-IPR is **Ambassador Rezlan Ishar Jenie**, appointed on 17 October 2017.

E. Programmes/Activities of ASEAN-IPR

Prior to the appointment of the Executive Director, ASEAN-IPR activities have been mainly driven by the Governing Council and/or the Advisory Board – some of which are in collaboration with relevant partners and/or stakeholders.

1. **ASEAN-IPR Symposium on Peace and Reconciliation: Processes and Initiative** (7 – 8 April 2014, Manila, Philippines)
2. **ASEAN-IPR – Institute for Peace and Democracy (IPD) Symposium on Peace and Reconciliation: Principles and Best Practices** (22 – 23 April 2014, Bali, Indonesia)
3. **The Advisory Board of ASEAN-IPR Seminar on Conflict Types and Management** (17 November 2014, Bali, Indonesia)
4. **ASEAN Workshop on Strengthening Women’s Participation in Peace Processes** (18 – 19 March 2015, Cebu City, Philippines)
5. **ASEAN-IPR Symposium on the Repercussion of Violent Extremism towards Moderates** (27 – 28 November 2015, Yogyakarta, Indonesia)

6. **ASEAN-IPR Symposium on the Plight of Women and Children in Conflict Situation** (7 – 9 December 2015, Tagaytay City, Philippines)
7. **ASEAN-IPR Symposium on Strengthening Convergences for Humanitarian Action in ASEAN** (2 – 3 October 2017, Manila, Philippines)

F. Contact Information

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