The Culture of Prevention represents a crucial crossroads for ASEAN

For the first time we will see ‘prevention’ featuring more prominently in our lexicon, and in all aspects of our work.

Our Culture of Prevention should be regarded as ASEAN’s resolve to promote a building-block and as an innovative approach to sustainable social and human development.
CULTURE OF PREVENTION

To promote and embed a culture of preventive mindset at all levels so that it becomes part of the socio-cultural DNA of our peoples.

We recognise that the failure to prevent may lead to a weakening of the resilience of our peoples and also in undermining the regional sense of belonging to One Community, which will impact on the opportunities of a good life that ASEAN seeks to provide, including, but not limited to:

- Social stability, peace and security;
- Empowerment and respect for all;
- Equitable access to education and employment;
- Equitable access to healthcare;
- Equitable access to a sustainable, clean & safe environment;
- Preparedness in times of crises, be it environmental or economic;
- Gender and other socio-cultural equality including rights to racial and religious freedom.
ASEAN leaders adopted the Declaration on Culture of Prevention (CoP) for a Peaceful, Inclusive, Resilient, Healthy and Harmonious Society at the 31st ASEAN Summit on 13 November 2017.

Recognising the need to institutionalise a culture of prevention to address the root causes of social issues including violence, environmental degradation and quality of life, the ASEAN initiative on Culture of Prevention represents a paradigm shift in our mindset, especially in enabling ASEAN to comprehensively respond to challenges that hamper sustainable social and human development in our region. It aims to shift the approach upstream in order to strengthen resiliency in ASEAN.

CoP seeks to address underlying causes of social issues especially poverty, inequality, disparity, marginalisation, social exclusion, youth unemployment and disenfranchisement, racial and religious discriminations, corruption, sense of social injustices, lack of access to education, employment, healthcare and quality of environment. It is therefore important to address these root causes before they fester into social malaise.

With the complementarities between ASEAN Vision 2025 and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (SDGs) as the backdrop, the 6 thrusts of ASEAN’s Culture of Prevention are well aligned with the 17 SDGs, focusing on key areas such as education, empowerment of youth, intercultural dialogue, poverty eradication, gender equality and empowerment of women, use of the Internet and social media, among others.

The CoP represents a crucial crossroad for ASEAN. For the first time we will see ‘prevention’ figuring more prominently in our lexicon, and in all aspects of our work. Our Culture of Prevention should be regarded as ASEAN’s resolve to promote a building-block and as an innovative approach to sustainable social and human development.

I look forward to you in joining hands with us to promote and foster the culture of prevention in the region so that it becomes embedded as part of the socio-cultural DNA of our ASEAN citizens.

Thank you.

H.E. Vongthep Arthakaivalvatee
Deputy Secretary-General of ASEAN
for ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community
What are we preventing?

The ASEAN initiative on Culture of Prevention (CoP) represents a paradigm shift in our mindset, especially in enabling ASEAN to comprehensively respond to challenges that hamper sustainable human and social development in our region. It aims to shift the approach upstream in order to strengthen resiliency in ASEAN.

Enshrined in ASEAN Community Vision 2025, is “to realise a common vision for an inclusive, sustainable, resilient, dynamic and harmonious ASEAN Community”, ASEAN seeks to develop and foster a Culture of Prevention, that promotes our shared values of tolerance, mutual understanding, respect for life, as well as to ingrain this Culture of Prevention mindset in the consciousness of our peoples, particularly the children and youths so that it becomes part of our socio-cultural DNA.
How does CoP work?

Culture of Prevention (CoP) adopts a cross-sectoral and whole-of-ASEAN approach to promote ASEAN’s shared values of tolerance, mutual understanding and respect for life and diversity.

#1 A Culture of Peace & Intercultural Understanding
To promote cultural pluralism, mutual understanding and strengthen the resiliency of community so as to prevent racial, religious distrust and disharmony, intolerance, lack of respect for life and diversity, among others.

#2 A Culture of Respect for All
To promote empowerment and gender equality, respect for vulnerable groups including women, youth, children, the elderly and the disabled, among others.

#3 A Culture of Good Governance at All Levels
To promote responsible citizenship, equitable socio-economic development and growth including access to education and employment so as to prevent social ills including poverty, crime, drugs and corruption, among others.

#4 A Culture of Resilience & Care for the Environment
To promote people's awareness and care for the environment, and to prepare people for emergencies as a means to prevent risks of natural, human-induced disasters and environmental degradation.

#5 A Culture of Healthy Lifestyle
To promote a healthy lifestyle so as to prevent mental and physical illness and diseases as well as dysfunctional habits.

#6 A Culture of Supporting the Values of Moderation
To promote literacy in all aspects and at all levels so as to prevent deliberate falsehoods and radicalisation, among others.
Culture of Prevention and the Sustainable Development Goals

#1 A Culture of Peace & Intercultural Understanding

#2 A Culture of Respect for All

#3 A Culture of Good Governance at All Levels

1. No Poverty
2. Quality Education
3. Reduced Inequalities
4. Gender Equality
5. Decent Work and Economic Growth
16. Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions
#1 A Culture of Peace & Intercultural Understanding

#2 A Culture of Respect for All

#3 A Culture of Good Governance at All Levels

#4 A Culture of Resilience & Care for the Environment

#5 A Culture of Healthy Lifestyle

#6 A Culture of Supporting the Values of Moderation
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