The ASEAN Inter-governmental Commission for Human Rights (AICHR), established in 2009 as the first sub-regional human rights institution in the Asia-Pacific, and the ASEAN Human Rights Declaration adopted in 2012 have established a framework for human rights cooperation in the region and continued to mainstream the issue of human rights in all three pillars of ASEAN.

Over the next ten years, the regional grouping will enter the next phase of consolidation, further integration and stronger cohesiveness as a Community. ASEAN is working towards a Community that is “politically cohesive, economically integrated, and socially responsible”. Moving forward, ASEAN Community will continue to provide opportunities to its citizens and ensure that improvements in their lives are sustained under a common vision and identity.

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

The ASEAN Secretariat is based in Jakarta, Indonesia.

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The ASEAN Community 2015 is a community of opportunities under three community pillars: Political-Security Community, Economic Community, and Socio-Cultural Community. Its launch in 2015 is a historic milestone and a culmination of ASEAN’s resilience and dynamism throughout a journey of nearly half a century, and signals to the world how far and how well the ASEAN Member States have achieved in coming together as one community.

The ASEAN Community ascertains that the goal of ASEAN’s founding fathers of improving the lives of its people is reflected on the region’s economic and cultural development, social progress, regional peace and security, collaboration, mutual assistance in training and research, improvement of living standards, promotion of Southeast Asian studies and cooperation with regional and international organisations.

The organisation recognises the importance of ensuring the safety of its citizens from such threats as climate change, pandemics, natural disasters and transnational crimes, offering new opportunities to the region and the world of peace and stability, of bigger, more open and rules-based market for business, of better health and education; and of sustainable development.

Recognising the twin visions of peace and prosperity, ASEAN sustained peace in Southeast Asia by integrating harmonious inter-state relations through the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in Southeast Asia (TAC) for ASEAN Member States and more than 20 external parties, the Declaration on the 2002 Conduct of Parties in the South China Sea (DOC) and the Code of Conduct in the South China Sea (COC) that guide ASEAN and China to exercise self-restraint, refrain from the use of force, undertake practical maritime cooperation, and promote peaceful settlement of disputes in the South China Sea.
Southeast Asia is free of nuclear weapons and weapons of mass destruction through the Treaty on the 
Southeast Asia Nuclear Weapon-Free Zone (SEANWFZ) that also protects the region from environmental 
pollution and the hazards of radioactive and toxic waste materials. The ASEAN Convention on Counter 
Terrorism (ACCT) is ASEAN's regional cooperation framework to counter, prevent and suppress terrorism 
and deepen counter-terrorism cooperation.

Defence and military cooperation is gearing up with 
the establishment of the ASEAN Defence Ministers 
Meeting (ADMM) and the ADMM-Plus that provide 
Member States with counter-terrorism, maritime 
security and humanitarian assistance and disaster 
relief exercises, fostering understanding and improving 
capability and readiness.

The ASEAN Coordinating Centre for Humanitarian 
Assistance (AHA Centre) is at the forefront of ASEAN's 
strategy to instill resilience and face its vulnerabilities 
through a systematised regional disaster risk 
management and climate change adaptation that is 
harmonised with national and local policies and laws.

Already an international organisation by virtue of 
the ASEAN Charter in 2008, ASEAN has built and 
strengthened its institutional frameworks towards 
greater effectiveness, efficiency, better synergy 
and coordination, paving the way for a rules-based 
and comprehensive institutional infrastructure 
commensurate with the needs of regional integration 
and community building.

Implementation of the ASEAN economic integration 
measures has led to the establishment of the ASEAN 
Economic Community (AEC), which provides ASEAN 
people with an open and integrated market where 
there are more product choices at competitive costs. 
The AEC initiatives have also supported businesses to 
explore markets and extend their market reach at reduced costs through simplified cross-border trading 
processes and improved investment climate. At the same time, ASEAN economic integration is pursued 
not only through internal integration but also integration to the global economy; the latter is anchored on forward-looking free trade and comprehensive economic partnership agreements and initiatives to 
enhance global value chain participation. The AEC has also put in place frameworks and legal structures 
on competition, consumer protection and intellectual property as well as improved transportation and 
infrastructure networks, contributing to an improved environment for business. Last but not least, the 
AEC also strives to be a community that is inclusive and equitable, with focused efforts to facilitate 
and support the active and gainful participation of small and medium enterprises and newer ASEAN 
Member States in the economic community.

The ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community has put efforts to lift the quality of life of ASEAN peoples through 
cooperative activities that are people-oriented, people-centred, environmentally friendly, and that foster 
inter-cultural understanding and mutual respect. The ASCC’s activities have resulted in a deepening of 
the sense of ASEAN identity, and collectively accelerating socio-cultural growth and progress by:

- lowering the proportion of people living on less than $1.25/ day--from 1 in 2 to 1 in 8 persons over 
  the last two decades;
- reducing maternal mortality per 100,000 live births from 371.2 in 1990 to 103.7 in 2012;
- reducing proportion of urban slum populations from 40% in 2000 to 31% in 2012 ;
- increasing net enrolment rate for primary school children from 92% in 1999 to 94% in 2012;
- increasing proportion of seats held by women in parliaments from 12% in 2000 to 18.5% in 2012 and 
  enlisting 35 ASEAN natural heritage parks and 24 UNESCO cultural heritage sites in the ASEAN 
  region as of 2015.

Proudly ASEAN.

Fertile land in the region is good for agriculture.
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