ASEAN SOCIO-CULTURAL COMMUNITY (ASCC)

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 Vietnam. The ASEAN Secretariat is based in Jakarta, Indonesia.

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ASEAN: A Community of Opportunities

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“We are ASEAN!” - a simulation exercise on disaster management.
The ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community (ASCC) is one of the three pillars of ASEAN Community. It is committed to lifting the quality of life of its people by putting their welfare and well-being at the heart of its activities. To promote better quality of life for the peoples and their communities in ASEAN, the Member States cooperate on a wide range of areas such as:

- Culture and Information
- Education, Youth and Sports
- Social Welfare and Development
- Women and Gender
- Labour
- Civil Service
- Rural Development and Poverty Eradication
- Environment
- Disaster Management and Humanitarian Assistance
- Health and Communicable Diseases
- Science and Technology

Over the years, ASEAN has witnessed strengthened cooperation in social protection, promotion and protection of rights of women and children, humanitarian assistance in times of disasters, management of cross-border health and environmental risks, improvement of people’s health and well-being, development of opportunities for education, exchange and employment of young people and raising awareness on ASEAN cultures and identity.
ASEC Blueprint 2025

Given the complex challenges in the region, the ASCC envisions an ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community where people feel the benefits of being part of ASEAN. The ASCC Blueprint 2025 will thus strive for a community that engages and benefits the people, and is inclusive, sustainable, resilient and dynamic.

To do this, the ASCC will work towards:

- A committed, participative and socially-responsible community;
- An inclusive community that promotes high quality of life, equitable access to opportunities for all and promotes and protects human rights;
- A sustainable community that promotes social development and environmental protection;
- A resilient community with enhanced capacity and capability to adapt and respond to social and economic vulnerabilities, disasters and climate change; and
- A dynamic and harmonious community that is aware and proud of its identity, culture and heritage.

Milestones in 2016

- ASEAN Culture and Arts Cooperation Dialogue
- ASEAN Day on Disaster Management
- ASEAN Regional Disaster Emergency Response Simulation Exercise (ARDEX) 2016
- ASEAN Risk Assessment Centre for Food Safety (ARAC) and the ASEAN Food Safety Policy
- ASEAN Rabies Elimination Strategy and Plan of Action
- ASEAN-EU Project on Support to ASEAN Heritage Parks and Protected Areas
- ASEAN-EU Project on Sustainable Use of Peatlands and Haze Mitigation under ASEAN Programme on Sustainable Management of Peatland Ecosystems
- ASEAN Haze-free Roadmap
- Fifth ASEAN State of the Environment Report
- ASEAN ESC Model Cities Year 3
- ACB (ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity) 2016 Conference
- ASEAN/UNDP/GEF Project on Integrated River Basin Management in ASEAN Countries
- One ASEAN One Response Conference
- Publication of the ASEAN Regional Assessment on MDG Achievement and Post-2015 Development Priorities
- Publication of the Study Report on Projected Gender Impact of the ASEAN Economic Community
- Gender Sensitive Guideline on Handling Women Victims of Trafficking in Persons
- ASEAN Guidelines for a Non-Violent Approach to Nurturing, Care, and Development of Children in All Settings
- Establishment of the ASEAN Network of Family Development
- Establishment of the ASEAN Research Network on Ageing

Multi-Stakeholder Partnerships

The ASCC continuously consults and partners with a broad range of stakeholders in the government, civil society organisations, multilateral organisations, the private sector, the academe and ASEAN Dialogue Partners.

Mechanisms and Platforms under the ASCC

- ASEAN Women Entrepreneurs’ Network (AWEN)
- ASEAN Social Work Consortium (ASCW)
- Network of Experts on Inclusive Entrepreneurship in ASEAN
- ASEAN Children’s Forum
- ASEAN GO-NGO Forum on Social Welfare and Development
- ASEAN Forum on Rural Development and Poverty Eradication
- ASEAN Forum on Migrant Labour
- ASEAN-China Environmental Cooperation Forum
- ASEAN Forum on Sustainable Consumption and Production

ASEAN Centres and Partner Institutions

- ASEAN Agreement on Disaster Management and Emergency Response (AADMER) Partnership Group (www.aadmerpartnership.org)
- ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity (www.aseanbiodiversity.org)
“We are ASEAN!” - a simulation exercise on disaster management.

- ASEAN Specialised Meteorological Centre (ASMC) (asmc.asean.org/home/)
- ASEAN Conference on Civil Service Matters’ ASEAN Resource Centre
- Ten ASEAN Resource Centres (under ACCSM)
- ASEAN Coordinating Centre for Humanitarian Assistance on disaster management (www.ahacentre.org)
- ASEAN Risk Assessment Centre for Food Safety
- ASEAN Risk Communication Resource Centre
- ASEAN University Network (www.aunsec.org)
- China-ASEAN Environmental Cooperation Centre (chinaaseanenv.org/english)

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