



ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH EAST ASIAN NATIONS

asean

COMMUNITY



one vision
one identity
one community



HISTORY

The Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) was founded on 8 August 1967 in Bangkok with the signing of the ASEAN Declaration by Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore and Thailand. The ASEAN Declaration committed the signatory States to cooperate for the purpose of economic growth, social progress, cultural development, and regional peace and stability.

Brunei Darussalam joined ASEAN on 7 January 1984, Viet Nam on 28 July 1995, Lao PDR and Myanmar on 23 July 1997, and Cambodia on 30 April 1999. Currently, ASEAN has ten Member States.

AIMS and PURPOSES

The ASEAN Declaration states that the aims and purposes of the Association are, among others, to:

- Accelerate the economic growth, social progress and cultural development in the region through joint endeavours in the spirit of equality and partnership in order to strengthen the foundation for a prosperous and peaceful community of Southeast Asian Nations.
- Promote regional peace and stability through abiding respect for justice and the rule of law in the relationship among countries of the region and adherence to the principles of the United Nations Charter.

STRUCTURE

The highest decision-making body of ASEAN is the meeting of the Heads of Government/State of the Member States – the ASEAN Summit.

The Chairmanship of ASEAN is rotated annually, based on the alphabetical order of the English names of Member States.

ASEAN has numerous sectoral ministerial bodies which cooperate in many fields, including defence, law, transnational crime, trade, investment, finance, agriculture and forestry, energy, mineral, science and technology, transport, telecommunications and information technology, tourism, information, culture and arts, education, disaster management, environment, haze pollution, health, labour, rural development and poverty eradication, youth, women and children, and sports.

The ASEAN CHARTER

The ASEAN Leaders adopted the ASEAN Charter at their Summit in Singapore in November 2007. A High Level Task Force had drafted the Charter, drawing upon the recommendations of an Eminent Persons Group. The Charter embodies fundamental principles, goals, objectives and structures of ASEAN cooperation, codifies all ASEAN norms, rules and values, gives ASEAN a “legal personality”, determines the functions, and develops areas of competence of key ASEAN bodies and their relationship with one another.

With the entry into force of the ASEAN Charter on 15 December 2008, ASEAN has become a rules-based intergovernmental organisation with a legal personality. Some institutional changes include:

- An improved structure to ensure greater efficiency and prompt implementation of ASEAN agreements and decisions
- Convening of the ASEAN Summit twice a year
- Creation of an ASEAN Coordinating Council
- Single Chairmanship for key high-level ASEAN bodies
- Creation of a Committee of Permanent Representatives in Jakarta
- Establishment of the ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights

LANDMARK DOCUMENTS

- 1967 ASEAN Declaration
- 1971 Zone of Peace, Freedom and Neutrality Declaration
- 1976 Declaration of ASEAN Concord
Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in Southeast Asia
- 1992 Agreement on the Common Effective Preferential Tariff Scheme for the ASEAN Free Trade Area
- 1995 Treaty on the Southeast Asia Nuclear Weapon-Free Zone
- 1997 ASEAN Vision 2020
- 2002 Declaration on the Conduct of Parties in the South China Sea
- 2003 Declaration of ASEAN Concord II
- 2007 Charter of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations
- 2009 Cha-am Hua Hin Declaration on the Roadmap for the ASEAN Community (2009-2015)
- 2010 Ha Noi Declaration on the Adoption of the Master Plan on ASEAN Connectivity
- 2011 Bali Declaration on ASEAN Community in A Global Community of Nations “Bali Concord III”
- 2012 ASEAN Human Rights Declaration and Phnom Penh Statement on the Adoption of the ASEAN Human Rights Declaration
- 2015 Kuala Lumpur Declaration on ASEAN 2025: Forging Ahead Together
- 2015 ASEAN Convention on Trafficking in Persons Especially Against Women and Children (ACTIP)
- 2016 Vientiane Declaration on the Adoption of the Master Plan on ASEAN Connectivity 2025

ASEAN CONNECTIVITY

ASEAN Connectivity aims to complement and support integration by strengthening the foundational support to achieve the political-security, economic, and socio-cultural pillars of an integrated ASEAN Community.

The ASEAN Leaders adopted the Master Plan on ASEAN Connectivity (MPAC) 2025 at the 28th ASEAN Summit in September 2016 in Vientiane, Lao PDR as the successor document to the MPAC 2010.

The vision for the ASEAN Connectivity 2025 is to achieve a seamlessly and comprehensively connected and integrated ASEAN that will promote competitiveness, inclusiveness, and a greater sense of Community. To achieve such vision, the MPAC 2025 focuses on five strategic areas, namely Sustainable Infrastructure, Digital Innovation, Seamless Logistics, Regulatory Excellence and People Mobility.

EXTERNAL RELATIONS

ASEAN develops friendly relations and mutually beneficial dialogue, cooperation and partnerships with countries and sub-regional, regional and international organisations. ASEAN currently has ten Dialogue Partners, namely Australia, Canada, China, the European Union, India, Japan, the Republic of Korea, New Zealand, Russia and the United States of America, three Sectoral Dialogue Partners, namely Pakistan, Norway and Switzerland and one Development Partner namely Germany.

In line with the ASEAN Community Vision 2025, ASEAN will continue to strengthen substantial and strategic cooperation with Dialogue Partners through existing mechanisms such as the ASEAN+1, ASEAN+3, the East Asia Summit (EAS) and the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF).

ASEAN has also been developing effective partnerships with other external parties as well as reaching out to potential partners considering the increased interest by external parties in establishing formal partnerships with ASEAN. To date, 85 non-ASEAN Member States and regional organisations have accredited their Ambassadors to ASEAN (NAAAs) and 50 ASEAN Committees in Third Countries (ACTCs) have been established. ASEAN is enhancing engagement with the NAAAs as well as utilising more effectively the role of the ACTCs to promote ASEAN in the host countries/international organisations.

ASEAN also maintains contacts and cooperates with regional or international organisations. In 2006, ASEAN became an official observer at the United Nations General Assembly. ASEAN also cooperates closely with regional organisations such as the Pacific Alliance, Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), Economic Cooperation Organisation (ECO), Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC), South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) and Shanghai Cooperation Organisation among others.



ASEAN SECRETARIAT

ASEAN established a Secretariat in February 1976. The existing premises in Jakarta, which was donated by the Indonesian government, was officiated in 1981.

The ASEAN Secretariat has staff recruited locally and from the ASEAN Member States. The ASEAN Heads of Government/State appoint the Secretary-General for a term of five years. The four Deputy Secretaries-General comprise two Deputy Secretaries-General who are nominated by ASEAN Member States on alphabetical rotation and two Deputy Secretaries-General who are openly recruited.

The ASEAN Secretariat's basic function is to provide for greater efficiency in the coordination of ASEAN organs and for more effective implementation of ASEAN projects and activities. The ASEAN Secretariat is the nerve centre of a strong and confident ASEAN Community that is globally respected for acting in full compliance with its Charter and in the best interest of its people; and its mission is to initiate, facilitate and coordinate ASEAN stakeholder collaboration in realising the purposes and principles of ASEAN as reflected in the ASEAN Charter.

ASEAN 2025

ASEAN Political-Security Community (APSC)

The APSC aims to ensure that the peoples and Member States of ASEAN live in peace with one another and with the world at large in a just, democratic and harmonious environment.

To achieve this, the APSC promotes political development in adherence to the principles of democracy, the rule of law and good governance, respect for, promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms as inscribed in the ASEAN Charter. It also subscribes to a comprehensive approach to security. At the same time, the APSC seeks to strengthen the mutually beneficial relations between ASEAN and its Dialogue Partners and friends.

The APSC Blueprint 2025 which is the successor document to the APSC Blueprint 2015 was adopted by the ASEAN Leaders at the 27th ASEAN Summit in November 2015, as an integral part of the ASEAN 2025: Forging Ahead Together. It is envisioned that the APSC will be a united, inclusive and resilient community by 2025.

The APSC Blueprint 2025 comprises key characteristics as follows, all of which are inter-related and mutually reinforcing and shall be pursued in a balanced and holistic manner: a rules-based, people-oriented, people-centred Community, a peaceful, secure and stable region, ASEAN centrality in a dynamic and outward looking region, and a strengthened ASEAN institutional capacity and presence at the national, regional and international levels.



ASEAN Economic Community (AEC)

The establishment of the ASEAN Economic Community (AEC) in 2015 marked a major milestone in ASEAN's economic integration agenda. It signifies the start of ASEAN's collective journey as an economic community, presenting immense opportunities. With a combined GDP of over US\$2.4 trillion in 2015, ASEAN was collectively the world's sixth largest economy and the third largest in Asia, with the total population that came only second to China and India at 629 million.

The AEC Blueprint 2025, adopted by the ASEAN Leaders at the 27th ASEAN Summit on 22 November 2015 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, provides broad directions for the next phase of ASEAN economic integration from 2016 to 2025.

By 2025, the Blueprint aims to achieve (i) A Highly Integrated and Cohesive Economy; (ii) A Competitive, Innovative, and Dynamic ASEAN; (iii) Enhanced Connectivity and Sectoral Cooperation; (iv) A Resilient, Inclusive, People-Oriented, and People-Centred ASEAN; and (v) A Global ASEAN.

The AEC Blueprint 2025 will lead towards an ASEAN that is more proactive, cultivating its collective identity and strength to engage with the world, responding to new developments, overcoming uncertainties and common challenges, and seizing new opportunities. The Blueprint will ensure that the 10 ASEAN Member States are economically integrated, and also sustainably and gainfully participating in the global value chains, thus contributing to the goal of shared prosperity.



ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community (ASCC)

ASEAN's socio-economic progress is heralded by remarkable human and sustainable development. Against this backdrop of intensified regional cooperation, the region has witnessed extreme poverty dramatically declining in a number of ASEAN Member States. The region also experienced an expanding middle class, improving health and education, a growing workforce serving regional and global labour needs, a rapidly rising urban population that generates new services, city infrastructure development, and evolving lifestyles.

The ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community (ASCC) aims to lift the quality of life of its peoples through cooperative activities that are people-oriented, people-centred, environmentally friendly, and geared towards the promotion of sustainable development.

The ASCC 2025 opens a world of opportunities to collectively deliver and fully realise human development, resiliency and sustainable development to face new and emerging challenges.

The ASCC 2025 vision is formulated for an ASEAN Community with the following characteristics: (1) engages and benefits the peoples and is (2) inclusive, (3) sustainable, (4) resilient, and (5) dynamic.

The ASCC Blueprint was adopted by the ASEAN Leaders at the 27th ASEAN Summit in 2015 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. Development initiatives under ASCC Pillar are formulated to achieve outcomes that will encourage positive social changes in the region.



10 ASEAN MEMBER STATES

Brunei Darussalam

Capital : Bandar Seri Begawan
Land area : 5,769 sq. km.
Population : 417.2 thousand
Language(s) : Malay, English
Currency : Brunei Dollar



Cambodia

Capital : Phnom Penh
Land area : 181,035 sq. km.
Population : 15,405.2 thousand
Language(s) : Khmer
Currency : Riel

Indonesia

Capital : Jakarta
Land area : 1,913,579 sq. km.
Population : 255,461.7 thousand
Language(s) : Bahasa Indonesia
Currency : Rupiah



Lao PDR

Capital : Vientiane
Land area : 236,800 sq. km.
Population : 6,902.4 thousand
Language(s) : Lao
Currency : Kip

Malaysia

Capital : Kuala Lumpur
Land area : 330,290 sq. km.
Population : 30,485.3 thousand
Language(s) : Malay, English, Chinese, Tamil
Currency : Ringgit



Myanmar

Capital : Nay Pyi Taw
Land area : 676,577 sq. km.
Population : 52,476.0 thousand
Language(s) : Myanmar
Currency : Kyat

Philippines

Capital : Manila
Land area : 300,000 sq. km.
Population : 101,562.3 thousand
Language(s) : Filipino, English
Currency : Peso

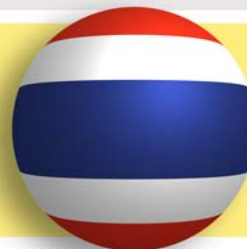


Singapore

Capital : Singapore
Land area : 719.1 sq. km.
Population : 5,535.0 thousand
Language(s) : English, Malay, Mandarin, Tamil
Currency : Singapore Dollar

Thailand

Capital : Bangkok
Land area : 513,120 sq. km.
Population : 68,979.0 thousand
Language(s) : Thai
Currency : Baht



Viet Nam

Capital : Ha Noi
Land area : 330,951 sq. km.
Population : 91,713.3 thousand
Language(s) : Vietnamese
Currency : Dong

Source of data: ASEAN Statistical Yearbook 2015, December 2016

KEY FACTS

Population : 628,937.3 thousand
Total Land Area : 4,488,839 sq. km.
GDP : US\$ 2,431,969 (in billion)
GDP per Capita : PPP\$ 11,009
Total Trade : US\$ 2,269,298 (in billion)
FDI : US\$ 120,818.8 (in billion)

Source of data: ASEAN Community in Figures (ACIF) 2016, December 2016.

ASEAN Emblem

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.
Yellow symbolises prosperity.



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

“The Association represents the collective will of the nations of South-East Asia to bind themselves together in friendship and cooperation and, through joint efforts and sacrifices, secure for their peoples and for posterity the blessings of peace, freedom and prosperity.”

The ASEAN Declaration
(8 August 1967)

“United by a common desire and collective will to live in a region of lasting peace, security and stability, sustained economic growth, shared prosperity and social progress, and to promote our vital interests, ideals and aspirations.”

The ASEAN Charter
(20 November 2007)

ASEAN Anthem

The ASEAN Way

Raise our flag high, sky high
Embrace the pride in our heart
ASEAN we are bonded as one
Lookin' out to the world

For peace, our goal from the very start
And prosperity to last

We dare to dream we care to share
Together for ASEAN
We dare to dream we care to share
For it's the way of ASEAN

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

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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