



OUR PEOPLE OUR FUTURE TOGETHER



Mid-Term Review of the ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community Blueprint (2009-2015)

Regional Assessment
Adopted by the ASEAN Leaders
at the 23rd ASEAN Summit



one vision
one identity
one community



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The ASEAN Secretariat
Jakarta

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Foreword



The Report of the Mid-Term Review of Implementation of the ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community (ASCC) Blueprint catalogues the key achievements and challenges, provides a comprehensive evaluation of the progress made so far, and recommends the priority measures for 2015 and beyond.

The Mid-Term Review process, comprising both regional and national assessments, has enabled the ASCC to reflect on its performance and to engage in wide-ranging discussions aimed at enhancing the implementation of the ASCC measures and further strengthening coordination, especially on cross-pillar and cross-cutting issues, among ASEAN sectoral bodies, Dialogue Partners as well as partners from the international community, NGOs, civil society and the private sector.

The Mid-Term Review takes inspiration and is guided by the Chairmanship's theme of "Our People, Our Future Together." It is hoped that this Report will be a catalyst for greater action among all relevant ASEAN mechanisms, officials and stakeholders to ensure that ASEAN will achieve its vision of a truly people-oriented, people-centred ASEAN Community by 2015 and beyond.

Le Luong Minh
Secretary-General of ASEAN
December 2013

Message

Message by the Chairman of the ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community Council



From the end of 2012 and for most of 2013, the ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community (ASCC) undertook a careful assessment and review of our progress in implementing the ASCC Blueprint, an integral component of the ASEAN Road Map adopted by the ASEAN Leaders in March 2009. As the ASCC Blueprint has reached its mid-point, the Mid-Term Review (MTR) was among many challenges shouldered by Brunei Darussalam during its tenure as ASEAN Chair in 2013. In that regard, we are very grateful to His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam for consenting to fund the Regional Assessment of the Mid-Term Review.

As stated by His Excellency Le Luong Minh, the Secretary General of ASEAN at the 9th ASCC Council Meeting in March 2013, we have been implementing 293 actions out of a total of 339

listed in the ASCC Blueprint. However, we still face as a lot of challenges as we strive to get the ASEAN Community in place by 2015. Low awareness of ASEAN as a regional body is still hampering our progress. The knowledge and understanding of a significant number of ASEAN citizens in Member States of ASEAN policies and their potential impacts are far from adequate. To successfully fulfill the objective of the Mid Term Review, we needed to look into the Scorecard of the ASCC Blueprint and analyse it holistically across the different sectors. We needed to assess past achievements and challenges, and recommend priorities in the next coming years to promote ASEAN among its citizens, thus promoting broader people-to-people engagement.

With considerable effort and in a spirit of collaboration, the Report of the Mid-Term Review of the Implementation of the ASCC Blueprint was completed in September 2013 and adopted at the 23rd ASEAN Summit in Bandar Seri Begawan in October 2013. This MTR report acknowledges the positive progress in the ASCC Blueprint implementation over the past four years. The review process also incorporates principle and shared results of national assessments of the ASCC Blueprint implementation conducted by ASEAN Member States on their own accord. While there are many positive messages, the report also cautions that implementation

is “at a critical juncture, requiring closer monitoring to ensure that concerted and timely actions are taken”. We will need a practical approach and effective mechanism to coordinate our efforts through strong regional-national cooperation as well as the identification of cross-cutting issues and cross-sectoral initiatives. To this end, my hope is that the results of the MTR will help further enhance our efforts towards bringing the ASCC Community closer as was envisioned by our Leaders.

Recognition must be given to the spirit of collegiality and cooperation by the members of the ASCC Council and their Senior Officials Committee of the ASCC (SOCA), which was entrusted to supervise the process with assistance from the ASEAN Secretariat. I would like to also express my appreciation to the Chairs and Vice-Chairs of the ASCC’s sectoral bodies and their specialized sub-groups for their professionalism and commitment in ensuring the successful implementation of the ASCC Blueprint thus far. I sincerely thank and congratulate the ASCC stakeholders as well as the regional and national consultants for this successful endeavor and I hope that the recommendations contained in this report will be considered and transformed into concrete actions to fast track the realisation of the ASEAN Community 2015.

Pehin Dato Haji Hazair Abdullah
ASCC Council Chair 2013
Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports
Brunei Darussalam

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Acronyms and Glossary

AADCP	ASEAN-Australia Development Cooperation Programme
AADMER	ASEAN Agreement on Disaster Management and Emergency Response
AATHP	ASEAN Agreement on Transboundary Haze Pollution
ACB	ASEAN Centre on Biodiversity
ACC	ASEAN Coordinating Council
ACCSM	ASEAN Conference on Civil Service Matters
ACDM	ASEAN Committee on Disaster Management
ACHMM	ASEAN-China Health Ministers' Meeting
ACMW	ASEAN Committee on the Implementation of the ASEAN Declaration on the Protection and Promotion of the Rights of Migrant Workers
ACSC	ASEAN Civil Society Conference
ACTS	ASEAN Credit Transfer System
ACW	ASEAN Committee on Women
ACWC	ASEAN Commission on the Promotion and Protection of the Rights of Women and Children
ADDM	ASEAN Day for Disaster Management
ADF	ASEAN Development Fund
ADMER	ASEAN Disaster Management and Emergency Relief
AEC	ASEAN Economic Community
AF	ASEAN Foundation
AHA Centre	ASEAN Coordinating Centre for Humanitarian Assistance
AHP	ASEAN Heritage Park
AHMM	ASEAN Health Ministers' Meeting
AISTDF	ASEAN-India Science and Technology Development Fund
ALMM	ASEAN Labour Ministers' Meeting
AMMW	ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Women
AMS	ASEAN Member States
AMRDPE	ASEAN Ministers' Meeting on Rural Development and Poverty Alleviation
AMMSWD	ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Social Welfare and Development
ACCSM	ASEAN Conference on Civil Service Matters
APAST	ASEAN Plan of Action on Science and Technology
APG	AADMER Partnership Group
APMS	ASEAN Peatland Management Strategy
APTHMM	ASEAN Plus Three Health Ministers' Meeting
APMI	ASEAN Peatland Management Initiative
ARC	ASEAN Resource Centre
APSC	ASEAN Political-Security Community
ASCC	ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community
ASCCD	ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community Department
ASEAN	Association of Southeast Asian Nations
ASEAN-6	Brunei Darussalam, Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore

ASEC	and Thailand
ASWC	ASEAN Secretariat
AsiaDHRRA	ASEAN Social Work Consortium
ARDEX	Asian Partnership for the Development of Human Resources in Rural Asia
ASF	ASEAN Regional Disaster Emergency Response Exercise
AUN	ASEAN Science Fund
CLMV	ASEAN University Network
CMP	Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar and Viet Nam
COCI	Conference of Parties serving at the Meeting of Parties
COP	Committee on Culture and Information
COST	Conference of the Parties
CPR	Committee on Science and Technology
CSOs	Committee of Permanent Representatives to ASEAN
CSR	Civil Society Organisations
DELSA	Corporate Social Responsibility
DMER	Disaster Emergency Logistic System for ASEAN
DMTIs	Disaster Management and Emergency Response
DMRS	Disaster Management Training Institutes
DRFI	Disaster Monitoring and Response System
EPI	Disaster Risk Financing and Insurance
ESC	Environmental Performance Index
ERAT	Environmentally Sustainable Cities
EU	Emergency Rapid Assessment Team
EU-READI	European Union
GEF	Regional EU-ASEAN Dialogue Instrument
GMS	Global Environmental Facility
HLTF	Greater Mekong Sub-region
HPA	High Level Task Force
IAI	Ha Noi Plan of Action
ICT	Initiative for ASEAN Integration
IFAD	Information & Communication Technology
KI	International Fund for Agricultural Development
KM	Krabi Initiative
KPI	Knowledge Management
Lao PDR	Key Performance Indicator
MCH	Lao People's Democratic Republic
MDGs	Maternal and Child Health
MIS	Millennium Development Goals
MTR	Management Information System
NDG	Mid-Term Review
NGOs	Narrowing the Development Gap
OSHNET	Non-Governmental Organisations
PMU	Occupational Safety and Health Network
RBM	Project Management Unit
RDPE	Results-Based Management
	Rural Development and Poverty Eradication

ROK	Republic of Korea
ROP	Rules of Procedure
S&T	Science and Technology
SASOP	Standby Arrangements and Standard Operating Procedures
SEAMEO	Southeast Asian Ministers of Education Organisation
SEAPEAT	Sustainable Management of Peatland Forest in Southeast Asia
SGS	Small Grant Scheme
SLOM	Senior Labour Officials' Meeting
SMEs	Small & Medium Enterprises
SOC-COM	Coordinating Conference on the ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community
SOCA	Senior Officials' Committee for the ASCC
SOMSWD	Senior Officials' Meeting on Social Welfare and Development
SOMHD	Senior Officials' Meeting on Health Development
SOP	Standard Operating Procedures
STEP	Science and Technology Partnership
STI	Science, Technology and Innovation
TOR	Terms of Reference
UHC	Universal Healthcare Coverage
UN	United Nations
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
VAP	Vientiane Action Programme
WHO	World Health Organisation





Executive Summary

● Executive Summary

A. Introduction

1. The Cha-Am Hua Hin Declaration on the ASEAN Roadmap for an ASEAN Community 2009-2015 of 1 March 2009 established that the three Community Blueprints – Economic, Political-Security, and Socio-Cultural – and the 2nd IAI Work Plan constitute the ASEAN Roadmap. The ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community (ASCC) Blueprint's primary goal is “to contribute to realising a people-centred and socially responsible ASEAN Community by forging a common identity and building a caring and sharing society.” The ASCC Blueprint is a framework for action and is structured into 6 Characteristics¹ or strategic-level development and cooperation outcomes and impacts toward ASEAN Community building. Underlying each Characteristic are Elements or inter-woven cross-pillar, thematic, sectoral and cross-sectoral outcomes. Each Element is in turn buttressed by Action Lines of which there are 339 specific results or activities to be achieved or undertaken through programmes, projects or special activities. The Blueprint contains an implementation arrangement laying out a schedule of key milestones and a coordination mechanism or governance structure delegating roles to the ASCC Council, Sectoral Ministerial Bodies, Senior Officials Meetings and other ASEAN-affiliated bodies and associated entities. In carrying out the Blueprint, ASCC is required to identify and address resource requirements, and to enumerate a communications plan that helps to enhance awareness, broaden and raise funds.

2. The ASCC Council oversees the overall implementation of the ASCC Blueprint and ensures coordination of efforts, including across the other Communities. The ASEAN Secretariat (ASEC) is tasked to monitor and review the implementation of the ASCC Blueprint, and for this purpose shall develop and adopt indicators and systems. The ASCC Blueprint also calls for a mid-term review whenever necessary, taking into account the changing dynamics of the region and the global environment. The Mid-Term Review (MTR) of the Implementation of the ASCC Blueprint officially commenced with the convening of the 1st Meeting of the Working Group for the MTR of the ASCC in Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei Darussalam, from 15 to 16 June 2013 and the Regional Workshop on National Assessments for MTR of the ASCC Blueprint in Jakarta, Indonesia, on 26 June 2013. The regional-level assessment of the MTR of the ASCC to collect data from primary documents, data sources and interviews ran from 27 June until 31 August 2013.

3. The purpose of the MTR is to assess (i) whether the measures and actions in the ASCC Blueprint have been effectively implemented at the national and regional levels; (ii) whether implementation of the ASCC Blueprint has contributed to achieving the goals of the ASCC as articulated in the ASCC

1 Profil Kemiskinan di Provinsi Papua Barat Maret 2013, Berita Resmi Statistik BPS Provinsi Papua Barat No. 29/07/91/Th. V, 2 Juli 2012).

Blueprint; (iii) the means of implementation; (iv) institutional mechanisms in ASEAN Member States (AMS) and the ASEC; (v) the availability and efficacy of financial resources and potential financing gaps to sustain the achievement of ASCC Blueprint goals by end 2015; and (vi) to provide recommendations to enhance the timely and effective implementation of the ASCC Blueprint by the end of 2015.

B. Methodology

4. In accordance with the SOCA-approved Terms of Reference, SOCA leads the MTR which is implemented by a Regional MTR Working Group chaired by Brunei Darussalam. The Working Group is composed of regional and national MTR focal points designated by the respective AMS and representatives of the ASEC, with technical advisory services provided by national consultants appointed by AMS where necessary, and by appointed regional consultants, Asia Partnership for the Development of Human Resources in Rural Areas (Asia DHRRA). The main documents reviewed were the latest ASCC Scorecard received on 28 June 2013 and the latest implementation-focused monitoring system report dated 20 June 2013. Also examined was the implementation-focused monitoring system developed by ASEC to monitor the implementation of the ASCC Blueprint by capturing specific activities implemented by various ASCC sectoral bodies to address the elements and characteristics of the ASCC Blueprint. Sectoral bodies adapted the indicators with the support of the ASEC to assess the outcome and impact of the various activities implemented through the ASCC Scorecard. The MTR was enriched by the reports coming from the national assessment process of the MTR, which was conducted simultaneously with the regional process, according to need, as perceived by the AMS.
5. The regional consultants conducted interviews that provided additional perspectives of ASEC staff members, the current Secretary-General, the three Deputy Secretary-Generals, the Committee of Permanent Representatives (CPR) to ASEAN, former Secretary-Generals of ASEAN, Dialogue Partners, Senior Officials and relevant representatives from civil society with direct engagement with ASEAN. Interviews were conducted by the regional consultants in Brunei Darussalam, Indonesia, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore and Thailand.
6. Five assessment criteria were employed to assess the extent of the implementation of the elements and characteristics of the ASCC Blueprint. The five assessment criteria used were relevance, effectiveness, efficiency, sustainability and impact. For each of the five criteria, a five-scale ranking was developed to assess the extent of the fulfilment of the criteria. The scale was developed to guide the process of capturing progress of implementation to obtain a sense of whether implementation was taking place. It is a guidepost to see where ASEAN is with regards to the implementation of the ASCC Blueprint and how it can move forward.

7. The MTR recognised limitations in relation to the availability and quality of primary reference documents as information provided may not be up to date or incomplete. The relatively short period of time constrained the MTR from conducting a deeper review of the thematic elements, where data and information had to be researched further to arrive at more detailed assessment of the progress of implementation.

C. Progress of Implementing the ASCC Blueprint at Regional Level

8. The ASCC Blueprint implementation is generally positive where about 90% of all the action lines have been addressed through the conduct of various activities by ASCC sectoral bodies. There have been many challenges in the course of implementing the Blueprint at the national and regional levels. But there are continuing efforts to improve and fast track meeting the 2015 targets and prepare for post-2015 challenges. There is more programmatic and cross-sector cooperation observed and the governance system is gearing up to be more dynamic and accountable. From a mid-term review process, the gains thus far are considerable and should point to more exciting and meaningful cooperation in the next two years. The MTR of the Blueprint has brought the ASEAN Community closer and served to prepare every one of the actions that have to be taken, in strong coordination and mutual support. It is hoped that the priority recommendations from the MTR will be acted on with dispatch to keep the momentum for 2015 and beyond.

Characteristics: An Overview

9. With 57 out of 61 action lines (~93%) having been addressed, the implementation of the human development characteristic is positively progressing towards realising its goal to enhance the well-being and livelihood of the peoples of ASEAN by providing them with equitable access to human development opportunities. This is confirmed by statistics² showing the average number of school years completed by the adult population increased from 7.5 years for ASEAN-6 and 4.6 years for CLMV in 2005 to eight years and five years respectively in 2010. The literacy rate of the youth population across ASEAN-6 countries inched closer to 100 per cent while the CLMV countries have significantly improved their literacy rate from around 81 per cent in 2009 to 92 per cent in 2010. Data from UNESCO and Viet Nam show that this rate was more than 93% in Viet Nam in 2010. With regard to the education gap between ASEAN-6 and CLMV countries, the recent publication, entitled *Narrowing the Development Gap in ASEAN: Drivers and Policy Options*, shows that the gap between the ASEAN-6 and the CLMV countries in terms of the Human Development Index (HDI) has been decreasing over the past decade.
10. In the overall implementation of the social welfare and protection characteristic, progress is more than satisfactory as activities relevant to 91 out of 94 action

² ASEAN Community Progress Monitoring System 2012 (ASEAN, 2013)

lines (~97%) have been implemented. It was reported in the ASEAN Brief 2012: Progress Towards the ASEAN Community that HDI rose from the ASEAN average rate of 0.635 in 2005 to 0.657 in 2010. Likewise, the extent of absolute poverty (people living on less than PPP\$ 1.25 a day) “in ASEAN declined significantly between 2000 to 2010, from around 45 to 16 per cent in CLMV countries and from around 29 to 15 per cent in ASEAN-6”. Implementation appears to be on track while recognising the challenges involved. There has been effective mobilisation of partnerships across the sectoral bodies towards strategic objective such as the various regional cooperation partnerships that have enhanced ASEAN’s programming framework to support AMS.

11. Likewise, in the social justice and rights characteristic, overall implementation is steady with 21 out of 28 actions (~79%) having been addressed. This characteristic focuses on rights for the vulnerable and marginalised in ASEAN – particularly women, children, persons with disabilities, older people and migrant workers. Institutional mechanisms to facilitate cooperation to promote social justice and rights of vulnerable groups have been strengthened with the establishment of the ASEAN Commission on the Promotion and Protection of the Rights of Women and Children (ACWC), and the ongoing development of an ASEAN instrument for the protection and promotion of the rights of migrant workers. The 5th Senior Officials Meeting on Social Welfare and Development held on 3-4 December 2008 in the Philippines and the Preparatory Senior Officials Meeting for the 7th AMMSWD on 23-24 November 2010 in Brunei Darussalam helped in the formation of the ASEAN Children’s Forum, which serves as a platform for children’s participation at the regional level. The ASEAN Decade of Persons with Disabilities 2011-2020 proclaimed at the 19th ASEAN Summit in 2011 has been translated into joint efforts. Many of the activities implemented are categorised under confidence building and joint efforts with the challenge of advancing some of these towards harmonisation or developing regional implementing mechanisms. A feature under this characteristic is the continuing engagement with civil society through sectoral dialogue platforms and partnerships with Dialogue Partners that augur well for long-term sustainability.
12. Overall, there is high relevance of the implemented activities and projects towards ensuring environmental sustainability, resonating with the stated goal. AMS’ Environmental Performance Index (EPI) scores in 2010 and 2012, which are used as the overall indicator to monitor the progress of implementation of Section D (Ensuring Environmental Sustainability) of the ASCC Community Blueprint, reflect good and well-maintained environmental health and ecosystem vitality, with AMS reporting an above average EPI score of 57.95 in 2010 and 56.63 in 2012 (range of 0 to 100). The Trend EPI shows overall positive improvements with an average AMS’ Trend EPI score of 6.54 (range of -50 to +50). While Brunei Darussalam received a Trend EPI score of -1.3, it received one of the highest EPI Scores among AMS. Thailand is ranked one of the Top 10 Trend Index Performers (10th) among 132 countries. In general, progress is satisfactory in this characteristic. While such achievements have transcended ASEAN’s overall cooperation in the

environmental sector over the years, there is still a considerable amount of work to be done towards 2015.

13. The goal of achieving an ASEAN identity has progressed through various confidence-building activities among AMS with primary focus given to human capacity building. The completed and ongoing actions and projects addressing 48 of the 50 actions (96%) for this characteristic are deemed highly relevant in achieving the strategic objective of creating a sense of belonging, consolidating unity in diversity, and deepening mutual understanding among ASEAN Member States. Events such as the ASEAN Festival of Arts, ASEAN Cities of Culture, Best of ASEAN Performing Arts, ASEAN Quiz, ASEAN Studies courses, ASEAN Corners or the ASEAN Day celebration are popular and powerful instruments in raising ASEAN awareness and in bringing an ASEAN identity to the attention of national populations. Awareness of ASEAN is also being inculcated through the curriculum in schools, especially primary schools through the ASEAN Curriculum Sourcebook's initiative. The achieved milestones identified indicate the continuing efforts by AMS and sectoral bodies and can be considered building blocks in advancing the strategic objectives under this characteristic for the remaining period. Overall, the achievement of targets is commendable in some elements but needs improvement in others, especially in terms of dissemination of the information.

ASCC Financing

14. There has yet to be a definite valuation or analysis made on the required cost of funding the implementation of the ASCC Blueprint and the related sectoral work plans. Nevertheless, ever since the Blueprint was adopted in 2009, the cost of implementation has been borne by ASEAN Member States with assistance from ASEAN Dialogue and External Partners. The ASEAN Member States contribute to the implementation of the ASCC Blueprint, at both regional and national levels, in the following ways: (a) cash contributions to specific regional budgets and funds; (b) ASEAN-wide funds, e.g., ASEC Operating Budget (AOB), ASEAN Development Fund (ADF); (c) ASCC-related funds : e.g., ASEAN Science and Technology Fund; ASEAN Haze Fund; ASEAN Biodiversity Fund; AADMER Fund; Operational Fund for the AHA Centre; ASEAN Youth Programme Fund; and Singapore-ASEAN Youth Fund; and (d) financial and in-kind contributions to regional projects and meetings. Cash and in-kind contributions derived from national programmes have a multiplier effect on ASCC-related activities.
15. ASEAN partners with ASEAN Dialogue and External Partners to augment its own resources. Their contributions are made through ASEAN-wide initiatives as well as those specifically aimed at the ASCC. They contribute through supporting multi-year regional programmes and one-off projects/activities; providing technical assistance through experts, advisers and additional staff complement; and setting up additional funds for specific purposes such as for capacity-building, etc.

16. Given the diversity of financing and co-sharing modalities, with different kinds of contributions and coming from all sources, there is some difficulty in accounting for and estimating all the resources used to implement the ASCC Blueprint. Presently, the grant management database in ASEC is not able to capture all resources mobilised from all donors, generate up-to-date information or be linked to the ASEC financial system. Nevertheless, across all sectors, the continued support of the AMS by ensuring funding availability to host ASEAN meetings as well organizing and attending regular regional meetings, from ministerial to working group levels, to undertake ASEAN events and implement ASCC-related national programmes and projects, ensure that the work of the ASCC is supported at both regional and national levels. There is financial support for regional programmes and projects in sectors such as Culture and Information, Science and Technology, Youth, Environment, Disaster Management, and ACCSM's ASEAN Resource Centres' operations and projects run by AMS. A comprehensive study of the overall availability and magnitude of cash and in-kind contributions of AMS, specifically the funds established by individual AMS, and the assistance programs provided by Dialogue Partners and Development Partners, should be undertaken as part of a resource mobilisation strategy.

D. Progress of Implementing the ASCC Blueprint at National Level

17. Overall, AMS have satisfactorily progressed in implementing the five characteristics on human development, social welfare and protection, social justice and rights, environment sustainability and ASEAN identity awareness. AMS have made major contributions both individually and collectively to the attainment of the ASCC goals, and there is increasing evidence of regional and national development and cooperation programmes being mutually supportive through parallel and reinforcing objectives.
18. The implementation of the ASCC Blueprint by the AMS has been active and the activities developed are relevant as they reflect consistency with national priorities. The high degree of coherence with national priorities enable national policy frameworks to be strengthened and reinforced. At the same time, implementation produces challenges as some AMS mentioned bottlenecks occurring with regards to resources like funding, expertise and human resources. Coordination with different sectoral bodies is also challenging as some AMS found duplication in implementation among sectoral bodies. Despite the challenges encountered, mechanisms for cross-cutting issues have been established and are being mainstreamed into current government structures at the national level.
19. Challenges faced by AMS in the implementation of the ASCC Blueprint relate to financial and human resources, technical expertise or language proficiency, coordination and cross-sectoral mechanisms, problems on the use of the ASCC monitoring tools, and awareness of the ASCC Blueprint among government officials and the general public.

E. Observations

20. Generally, the MTR supports the findings of the March 2013 ASEC report on the Status of the ASCC Blueprint implementation where it was reported that 33 action lines, or 9.73% of the total 339, fell into the category whose outcomes are not under the direct control of an ASCC sectoral body. These are action lines that need cross-sectoral or cross-pillar arrangements, necessitating strong coordination and effective communication lines among the different sectoral bodies to ensure that action lines are implemented and opportunities for cross-sectoral cooperation are optimised.
21. There is an immediate need to pursue consolidation and prioritisation across sectors in light of the need to fast track implementation of targets towards 2015. The SOCA is highly encouraged to oversee this process, guided by the principles on prioritisation and with the support from the CPR and the ASEC. The ASCC Council has to mandate and approve this process to ensure that resources and attention of the responsible actors in the ASCC Blueprint implementation are focused on priority and programmatic cooperation, especially in the run up to 2015.

F. Priority Recommendations

22. A list of priority recommendations has been identified and recommended for consideration.
 - a) **The ASCC Blueprint's implementation should be prioritised** in order to achieve practical implementation. Given the need to prioritise and focus resources in the run up to 2015, a process of review and re-targeting should be done at the sectoral level, keeping in mind the need to re-cluster overlapping targets and the option of cross-sectoral, cross-pillar cooperation.
 - b) **Enhancement of ASCC Monitoring Tools.** There is a need to further refine and enhance the scorecard for the ASCC Community and the implementation-focused monitoring system for the ASCC Blueprint. The feasibility of an enhanced and expanded monitoring system across other pillars, with which there are cross-cutting and cross-sectoral interests, should be examined. A corollary to this is setting up a data bank for ASCC at regional and national levels. The indicators and statistics should be relevant to the needs of the Member States and the system should warrant the long-term impact and sustainability of undertaken initiatives.
 - c) **Knowledge Management System.** ASEC should be calibrated to take on this function and build its capacity for more effective processing of data and information generated in aid of policy making, programming, and resource generation and development. The ASCC Department can pilot

it for selected or priority regional cooperation or by sector and within its core administration.

- d) **Coordination and Cross-Sectoral Mechanisms.** At the regional and national levels in some countries, there is a need to create a coordination mechanism or focal point networks or to strengthen the existing ones, especially for cross-sectoral issues, for interventions that are holistic and have greater impact potential. Shared targets could be better attained in collaboration and coordination amongst the relevant ASEAN sectoral bodies at regional level and government agencies in some countries.
- e) **Resource Mobilisation.** Further in-depth analysis would be required to determine the extent of funding requirements to implement the ASCC Blueprint and cross-cutting issues until 2015. Likewise, a study on the replication of the Small Grant Scheme of the COCI may also be undertaken to see how resources can be further devolved in the sectors. A resource mobilisation strategy that is in line with key priority areas for implementation is needed. This strategy will include the formulation of more strategic proposals to avail of funding that is presently within ASEAN and particular sectors.
- f) **Multi-sectoral and Multi-stakeholder Approaches.** There is no one-size-fits-all approach in pursuing new partnerships. One recommendation is the strengthening of the role of the SOCA in supporting the ASCC Council to fulfill one of its mandates to coordinate the work of the different sectors under its purview, and on issues which cut across the other Community Councils.
- g) **Communication Strategy.** ASEAN should expedite the release of the ASEAN-community-wide communication strategy/plan.
- h) **Special Consideration for CLMV Countries:** CLMV and some of the ASEAN-6 countries acknowledge the need to give special considerations to CLMV countries. Special Assistance is recommended to support implementation of cooperation and in support of project development to succeed more in resource mobilisation.
- i) Lastly, **Commitment to Implement Recommendations.** Most of the MTR recommendations have been raised in previous assessments and studies aimed to bring ASEAN closer to its One ASEAN Community goals. A core group from the SOCA, sectoral body representatives, and ASEC could be created to prioritise action points and develop an MTR action plan.

G. Ways Forward, Beyond 2015

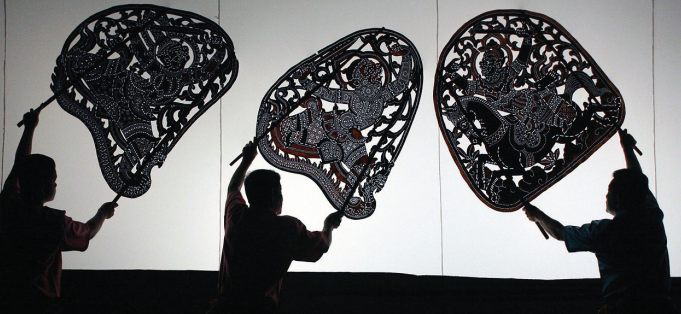
23. The post-2015 scenario for the ASCC pillar would have to be closely linked to two main developments: namely, the coming into being of the ASEAN

Community and the post-2015 development agenda at the global level. For the former, the ASCC would need to position itself to sustain an environment that is a people-centered and socially responsible ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community in the midst of a more integrated ASEAN Economic Community, aiming towards a single market and production base for the region, along with projecting a more peaceful and stable ASEAN Political-Security Community with ASEAN centrality being maintained.

24. ASEAN has committed itself to the principles espoused in the Bali Concord III Declaration of 2011 to move towards forging ASEAN common positions on various issues in the global arena by 2022. ASCC can take a leadership role in defining distinctly regional positions and strengthen ASEAN centrality in the areas under its purview in increasingly complex and cross-cutting issues by leveraging the diverse institutions and highly networked sectoral bodies as ASEAN's presence expands in regional and global fora.

H. Concluding Comments

25. The MTR of the ASCC Blueprint implementation has shown progress but implementation has reached a critical juncture. While many stipulated action lines are achieved or on track, it is important to closely monitor such ongoing action lines including those still under formulation to ensure that concerted and timely actions are taken. The MTR exercise has shed light on these specific areas and made recommendations on how to overcome those that still need improvement. The findings and recommendations of the MTR can act as a barometer of the ASCC's good progress and where action is still lagging and how to address these accordingly. Altogether, the process – from the national to the regional level – has helped build confidence, infuse excitement, and brought the ASCC community closer, the momentum of which should propel ASEAN to its set goals. The ASEAN Chair in 2015 coincides with the final review of the ASCC Blueprint which enters into the last year of implementation. The Chair will preside over a year of transition bringing closure to the current ASCC Blueprint while paving the way for the introduction of a successor strategic framework.



ASCC Blueprint Mid-Term Review : Regional Assessment

● ASCC Blueprint Mid-Term Review: Regional Assessment

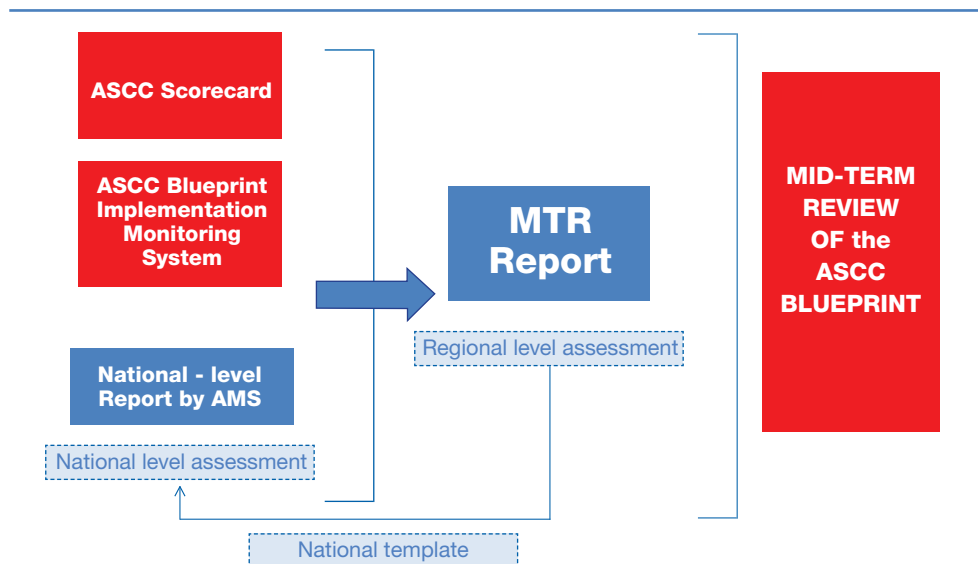
I. INTRODUCTION

1. The ASCC Blueprint was adopted by the ASEAN Leaders at the 14th ASEAN Summit on 1 March 2009. The vision is to realise ASCC's primary goals through interventions on the following six characteristics:
 - i. Human Development
 - ii. Social Welfare and Protection
 - iii. Social Justice and Rights
 - iv. Ensuring Environmental Sustainability
 - v. Building the ASEAN Identity; and
 - vi. Narrowing the Development Gap¹
2. Except for 'Narrowing the Development Gap,' each characteristic is further broken down into a number of elements. A set of defined actions aims to address the strategic objective for each element. The characteristics encompass a wide spectrum of socio-cultural and related disciplines covering 20 ASEAN sectoral bodies. Every element is generally overseen by at least one sectoral body within ASCC, if not more. In several cases, the elements have cross-pillar collaboration or coordination with bodies under the other two community pillars of ASEAN. The action lines for each element are derived from the individual action plans or priorities of the sectoral body(ies) concerned with the particular element.
3. The MTR of the ASCC Blueprint took into account the changing region and global development context to update the Blueprint and make it relevant to ASEAN. It is a critical activity for 2013 as the ASCC is midway in its implementation since the ASCC's Blueprint publication in 2009 and as ASEAN closes in on its vision of an ASEAN Community in 2015.
4. The review included both the regional assessment and national assessments, wherever necessary, as they relate to the implementation of the ASCC Blueprint. The Terms of Reference (TOR) were approved by 13th SOCA (Senior Officials Committee on the ASCC) Meeting, 26 January 2013, Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei Darussalam and the MTR consultants supported the MTR Working Group in developing the evaluation framework for both the national and regional processes and related tools. A Conceptual Framework on the relationship of the regional and national assessments to the overall MTR process was prepared by the ASEC, reflected in the schematic diagram below, modified in this report to reflect the regional-level assessment process, which provides an overview

¹ The NDG will not be covered under this MTR as there is a separate mid-term review exercise being carried for this characteristic. Moreover, all the action lines under the NDG characteristic in the ASCC Blueprint are under the purview of sectoral bodies outside ASCC as reflected in the implementation-focused monitoring report of 20 June 2013.

of the MTR Framework. The MTR process took into account national, sectoral, and regional perspectives.

SCHEMATIC REPRESENTATION OF THE MTR PROCESS



II. OBJECTIVES OF THE MID-TERM REVIEW OF THE ASCC

5. The MTR’s purpose is to assess: (i) whether the measures and actions in the ASCC Blueprint have been implemented effectively at the national and regional levels; (ii) whether implementation of the ASCC Blueprint has contributed to the goals of the ASEAN Social-Cultural Community as articulated in the ASCC Blueprint; (iii) the means of implementation; (iv) institutional mechanisms in ASEAN Member States (AMS) and the ASEC; (v) the availability and efficacy of financial resources and potential financing gaps to sustain the achievement of ASCC Blueprint goals by end 2015; and (vi) recommendations to enhance the timely and effective implementation of the ASCC Blueprint by the end of 2015.
6. The MTR of the ASCC Blueprint aims to highlight the progress of the ASCC Blueprint by focusing on the achievements and challenges while taking into account the approved evaluation parameters of relevance, effectiveness, efficiency, sustainability and impact.
7. To address the challenges, the recommendations from the MTR take into consideration what needs to be done by and beyond 2015. It will have both policy and programmatic considerations (e.g. prioritisation and options for clustering and synergies) to cover cross-cutting areas to expedite implementation of the ASCC Blueprint.

III. UNIQUE FEATURES, PROSPECTS AND CHALLENGES OF IMPLEMENTING THE ASCC BLUEPRINT

8. The ASCC Blueprint is a crucial policy and strategy instrument for the ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community that rallies together a wide array of some 20 sectoral bodies, encompassing areas not usually associated with the socio-cultural sector. The Blueprint is an equal, integral component of the ASEAN Road Map for an ASEAN Community (2009-2015) and inextricably linked to the two other Blueprints charged to the ASEAN Political and Security Community and the ASEAN Economic Community. A collaborative spirit underpins the ASEAN Road Map as exemplified by the number of action lines in ASCC elements that envisage collaboration and coordination with the two other community pillars of ASEAN, namely the ASEAN Economic Community (AEC) and the ASEAN Political and Security Community (APSC).
9. The theme for ASEAN this year (2013) under the chairmanship of Brunei Darussalam, “Our People, Our Future Together”, provides an appropriate backdrop for the MTR of the ASCC Blueprint.
10. The actions in the ASCC Blueprint are characterized by their diverse nature—put together as a consensus document—where some actions are aspirational in nature, over an extended period of time, and others are singular events. Other actions are time-bound while others still are open-ended. An observation of prevailing data/information shows the challenge in data collection, as gaps across sectors and among AMS are seen. This poses a challenge on how well progress and achievement can be tracked in a systematic and timely manner.
11. The ASCC Blueprint is rated as being generally relevant to their needs by most of the respondents interviewed both at national and regional levels. AMS have incorporated many elements of the Blueprint into their national priorities. Conversely, many regional priorities, as expressed both in the Blueprint and in sectoral work plans, are a confluence of national priorities. Clearly, the ASCC Blueprint and national priorities are mutually supportive and reinforcing. This dynamic relationship should be capitalized on to generate greater support for achieving ASCC goals.
12. Sustained economic growth and political and security stability in the countries of Southeast Asia will contribute to the continued development and progress in the socio-cultural sphere of ASEAN. The improved social conditions of the peoples of ASEAN will, in turn, enhance economic potential and prospects as well as peace and stability in the region. According to the ASEAN Brief 2012 Progress Towards the ASEAN Community report, “there are encouraging signs that increased economic integration from 2000 to 2011 has been followed by desirable economic and socio-cultural outcomes” such as decrease in poverty incidence, increase in life expectancy and improvements in health, greater education opportunities and attainment and the achievement of overall higher levels of human development.

13. The key challenge for ASEAN in the coming years, as it reaches its milestone year of establishing an ASEAN Community by 2015, is how to make the association more meaningful in the lives of the 600 million plus citizens of this dynamic and growing region. This sentiment has been echoed by previous and present ASEAN Leaders, Ministers and Senior Officials on several occasions. The developments leading up to 2015 and beyond will prove to be crucial in this connection.
14. The fast-changing global and regional developments demand that ASEAN quickly adapt to the rapidly evolving conditions. The region's resilience will be tested by emerging trends such as financial volatility, economic crises of one form or another, increasing geopolitical rivalries and competition as well as impacts from climate change, epidemics and population migration. ASCC will play an important role in determining how well ASEAN responds and positions itself to these growing challenges by drawing upon its social and human capital and thereby maintaining ASEAN's centrality in the evolving regional architecture and its dynamics.

IV. METHODOLOGY

15. In accordance with the SOCA-approved Terms of Reference, SOCA leads the Mid-Term Review (MTR) which is implemented by a Regional MTR Working Group chaired by Brunei Darussalam. The Working Group is composed of regional and national MTR focal points designated by the respective AMS and representatives of the ASEAN Secretariat, with technical advisory services provided by national consultants appointed by AMS where necessary, and by appointed regional consultants, Asia Partnership for the Development of Human Resources in Rural Areas (AsiaDHRRRA)². The MTR of the ASCC Blueprint officially commenced with the convening of the 1st Meeting of the Working Group for the MTR of the ASCC in Brunei Darussalam from 15 to 16 June 2013 and the Regional Workshop on National Assessments for MTR ASCC Blueprint on 26 June 2013. The data collection from interviews at the regional level of MTR ASCC ran from 27 June until 31 August 2013.

Documents Reviewed

16. Information for the MTR of the ASCC Blueprint was collected through document reviews and key informant interviews, including one focus group discussion with ASEC officers. The main documents reviewed were the latest ASCC Scorecard received on 28 June 2013 and the latest implementation-focused monitoring system report dated 20 June 2013. The monitoring system report was developed by ASEC to monitor the implementation of the ASCC Blueprint by capturing activities that were responsive to the needs and priorities of ASEAN. On the other hand, ASEC developed and adopted indicators to assess the outcome and impact of the various elements and characteristics in the Blueprint through the ASCC Scorecard. These review mechanisms were envisaged in the ASCC Blueprint. Both the Scorecard and the implementation-focused monitoring system report were endorsed by the 7th Meeting of the SOCA in Yogyakarta, Indonesia, 8 March 2011.

2 The AsiaDHRRRA MTR team is composed of Marlene Ramirez, Apichai Sunchindah, Elaine Tan

17. In addition, the national assessment reports were reviewed to capture the overall picture of the progress of the ASCC Blueprint implementation from the experiences and perspectives of the AMS. Key challenges and recommendations were drawn and are included in the main report of the MTR. Other documents reviewed consisted of meeting reports, shared by ASEC to report on the implementation of the ASCC Blueprint to SOCA over the last two years, annual reports of ASEAN sectoral bodies and reports shared by other identified stakeholders. Reports on funding availability supplied from ASEC were also reviewed. Furthermore, other documents reviewed were the various sectoral bodies' work plans as well as ASEAN Communiqués from sectoral bodies and ASEAN Summits.
18. The desk review looked at the sectoral work plans to ascertain how they were being operationalised to contribute to the realisation of the action lines in the ASCC Blueprint. It looked at the ongoing status of the action lines by referring to the status of projects, whether at the formulation stage, funding status or start of project. Available progress reports of programmes/projects were reviewed to have a better understanding of the progress of implementation of the Blueprint.

Interviews

19. The regional consultants conducted interviews that provided additional perspectives of ASEC staff members, the current Secretary-General, the three Deputy Secretary-Generals, the Committee of Permanent Representatives (CPR) to ASEAN, former Secretary-Generals of ASEAN, Dialogue Partners, Senior Officials and relevant representatives from civil society with direct engagement with ASEAN. Interviews were conducted by the regional consultants in Brunei Darussalam, Indonesia, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore and Thailand, where they met officials and authorities based on a list of individuals endorsed by the respective AMS and guide questions prepared and submitted in advance. A questionnaire was administered to those who were not able to meet with the regional consultants.

National Assessments

20. The national assessment conducted by AMS helped complement the MTR of ASCC Blueprint by encouraging participation and ownership of the review process. It contributed to reinforcing the progress of implementation at the regional level as many outputs and activities in the ASCC Blueprint are dependent on a collection of country-level commitments and activities.
21. The ASCC Council has stressed that the review would give “both qualitative and quantitative markers that chart the progress of the ASCC Blueprint holistically and its relevance.” Therefore, in accordance with the TOR of the MTR, national level assessments can be undertaken by each country whenever necessary.
22. The national assessments were guided by a common framework that was agreed upon at the Regional Workshop on National Assessments held on 26

June 2013 at ASEC in Jakarta, Indonesia. The common framework will cater to unique national circumstances.

Analysis

23. Five assessment criteria were employed to assess the progress of implementation of the elements and characteristics of the ASCC Blueprint. The five assessment criteria used are relevance, effectiveness, efficiency, sustainability and impact.
24. Under the five assessment criteria, relevance refers to the extent of implementing the ASCC Blueprint with regards to the priorities of the sectoral bodies/AMS. Effectiveness refers to the extent the action lines have been effectively carried out through means of implementation and institutional mechanisms. For efficiency, what was assessed is the extent of the implementation being cost-efficient i.e. utilization of budget to the agreed work plan and timeline or utilization of mechanism to optimise implementation. Sustainability refers to the extent or likelihood of benefits and gains continuing after the implementation of the action lines have been completed. Impact concerns the extent of the implementation of the ASCC Blueprint making a difference in the AMS/ASEAN region. For each of the five criteria, a five-scale ranking was developed to quantify the progress towards fulfillment of the criteria. The scale is as follows:

1 = Nil (less than 10%)
2 = to a little extent (25%)
3 = to some extent (50%)
4 = to a large extent (75%)
5 = to a full extent (100%)

25. The scale aims to guide the process of capturing the progress of implementation, as this provides a better sense of whether implementation was/is taking place. It is a guidepost to see where ASEAN is with regards to the implementation of the ASCC Blueprint and how it can move forward. The scale will be used in conjunction with the ASCC Scorecard.
26. The ASCC Scorecard is a quantified measurement of the achievement of goals, targets, and outcomes of the ASCC. The indicators of this scorecard were endorsed by the sectoral and corresponding subsidiary groups of the ASCC Department. It is a work-in-progress. The indicators signal the progress in the achievement of ASCC goals and objectives from the contribution of efforts through regional cooperation programmes/projects and other development interventions. The MTR of the ASCC Blueprint is guided by the ASCC Scorecard, where applicable, to provide a quantifiable measurement in the overall assessment of the ASCC Blueprint's progress.
27. To assess the overall implementation of a characteristic, the scale from each criterion is calculated and the overall score is based on how many times the scores are reflected in the individual evaluative criterion. However, to fully understand the multidimensionality of Blueprint implementation and formulate

the MTR findings and recommendations, the scale, calculation and scoring is further examined against the results of the ASCC Scorecard and implementation-focused monitoring report, and then refined by analysing the results of the interviews and the national assessment reports.

Limitations

28. The MTR encountered limitations in relation to the availability and quality of primary reference documents, as the information provided may not have been up to date or complete. The relatively short period of time constrained the MTR regional consultants from conducting a deeper review of the thematic elements where data and information had to be researched further to arrive at a more detailed assessment of the progress of implementation. In the relevant areas, the ASEC provided additional performance and implementation benchmarks, targets, and indicators to the narrative.

V. PROGRESS OF IMPLEMENTING THE ASCC BLUEPRINT AT REGIONAL LEVEL

Characteristics

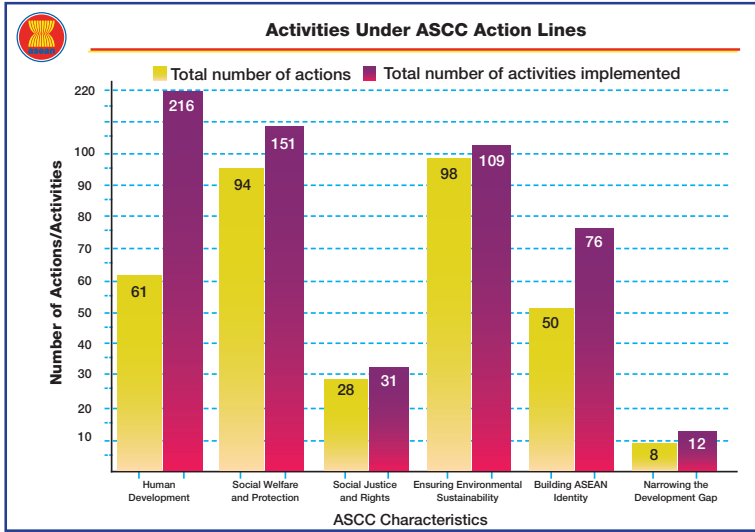
29. The ASCC Blueprint implementation is generally positive and has steadily moved ASEAN closer to its goal of a socially responsible community. While challenges in the course of implementing the Blueprint at the national and regional levels have been encountered, continuing efforts have been made to improve, fast track and meet 2015 targets and to prepare for post-2015 challenges. More programmatic and cross-sector cooperation can be observed and the governance system is gearing up to be more dynamic and accountable. From a mid-term review process, the gains thus far are considerable and the buildup of such gains points to more exciting and meaningful cooperation in the next two years. The MTR of the Blueprint has brought the ASEAN Community closer and served to prepare everyone for the actions that have to be taken, in strong coordination and mutual support. It is hoped that the priority recommendations from the MTR will be considered as to keep the momentum for 2015 and beyond. The graphs below depict the total number of action lines contrasted with the total number of activities implemented under action lines (Graph 1) and the number of action lines addressed after adjusting for multiple activities per action line (Graph 2) under each Characteristic:

Characteristic: Human Development³

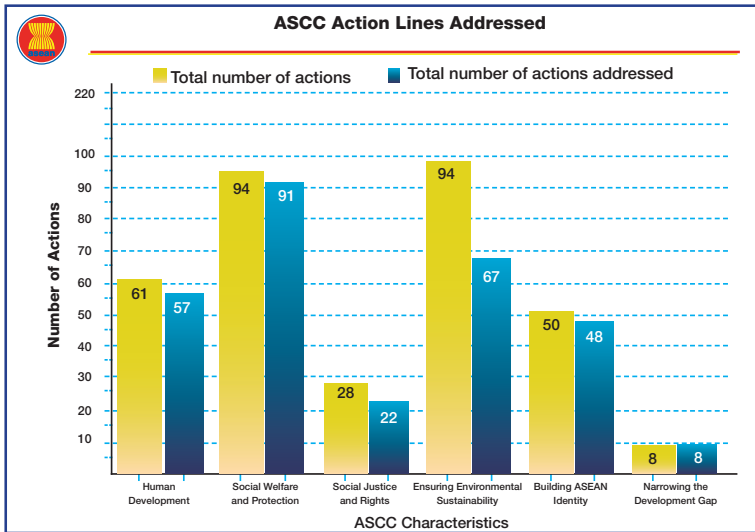
30. **Goal:** ASEAN will enhance the well-being and livelihood of the peoples of ASEAN by providing them with equitable access to human development opportunities,

3 The Human Development characteristic contains seven elements. For the analysis of implementation, only six elements were referred to as one element on promoting information and communication technology is being implemented by a sectoral body under the AEC.

Graph 1



Graph 2



promoting and investing in education and life-long learning, human resource training and capacity-building, encouraging innovation and entrepreneurship, promoting the use of the English language, and employing ICT and applied science and technology in socio-economic development activities.

Human Development Elements

1. Advancing and prioritising education
2. Investing in human resource development
3. Promotion of decent work
4. Promoting ICT
5. Facilitating access to applied Science & Technology
6. Strengthening entrepreneurship skills for women, youth, the elderly, and persons with disabilities
7. Building civil service capability

31. **Overall Assessment:** Implementation of the human development characteristic has positively progressed towards realising its goal. This can be determined from statistics cited from the ASEAN Brief 2012: Progress Towards the ASEAN Community. The average number of school years completed by the adult population increased from 7.5 years for ASEAN-6 and 4.6 years for Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar and Viet Nam (CLMV) in 2005 to eight years and five years respectively in 2010. Another satisfactory development can be seen in youth literacy. The literacy rate of the youth population across ASEAN-6 countries inched closer to 100 per cent with CLMV countries catching up rapidly as their literacy rate improved from around 81 per cent in 2000 to 92 per cent in 2010. The number of expected years of schooling was relatively unchanged at around 9.7 years. Educational attainment is interrelated with the employment, productivity rate, and welfare of workers which are being addressed through the SLOM's agenda of promoting decent work for all. According to the 2012 ASEAN Community in Figures, the annual average rate of unemployment decreased from 3.84% in 2009 to 3.02% in 2011 in nine AMS where data was available at that time. According to the ASEAN Brief 2012, the regional variation in average monthly wages of skilled labour (professional and technical/associate occupation categories) slightly decreased from 2004 to 2009 during the period under review.
32. The cooperation implemented is relevant and resonates with the sectoral work plans. The action lines being implemented are mainly at the level of confidence building, and building capacity and appear to be one-off workshops. However, the development of the AUN-ASEAN Credit Transfer System (ACTS) and AUN Quality Assurance System, which are being pursued through the AUN, are positive developments as they are considered as higher types of regional cooperation i.e. development of regional implementation mechanisms. The ASEAN Qualifications Reference Framework (AQRF) is another initiative that involves different sectors, e.g. education, labour, services, etc. Has exhibited a steady step towards regional harmonisation and integration in education system and skills evaluation. Cooperation amongst the trade in services, education and labour sectors to develop an ASEAN regional qualification reference framework

is another positive development and a good example of cross-pillar coordination to support the ASEAN's goal of free movement of skilled labour.

33. The issuance of the ASEAN Curriculum Sourcebook allows users to understand the overarching concept of ASEAN knowledge, i.e. knowing ASEAN; valuing identity and diversity, connecting global and local; promoting equity and justice; and working together for a sustainable future; which can be used for development of teaching materials at school level. However, the Sourcebook is published in English and translation into local languages may help national educators to promote its use as a common reference point for assessing student progress in mastering relevant curriculum content.
34. **Progress of implementation:** The preponderance of projects implemented is at the confidence-building or at joint efforts level, focusing on human capacity enhancement. There are also information gaps, which hinder understanding of how things are actually progressing. Different funding modalities are applied across ASEAN sectoral bodies contributing to the human development characteristics. Science and technology (S&T) projects have been mostly supported by various Dialogue Partners. However, dedicated funds such as the ASEAN Science Fund (ASF) and the ASEAN-India Science and Technology Development Fund (AISTDF) to support S&T projects have also been established along with the ASEAN Science Fund and the recently-established ASEAN Youth Programme Fund (AYPF), which allow sectoral bodies access to funding. Another funding scheme within the youth sector, i.e. Singapore-ASEAN Youth Fund (SAYF), was set up in 2007 and has been administered by the National Youth Council of Singapore to support partnerships among ASEAN youth and Youth Sector Organisations (YSOs), thus contributing to greater understanding and closer ties within the ASEAN Community. The duration period of SAYF has been extended until 2014 to continue supporting youth activities/projects and programmes in the region.
35. It has been noted that recurring projects with Dialogue Partners on student exchanges have continued to receive funding. In the case of regional projects in the labour and civil service sectors, the majority are funded by ASEAN Member States with some financial and/or technical support from external partners. Operationalisation and projects of the ten ASEAN Resource Centres (ARCs) under the ACCSM are mainly funded by AMS with some AMS receiving support from their respective partners. On their part, AMS has continuously supported ASEAN flagship activities/projects implemented at national and regional level tap funding from their national budget.
36. **Recommendations:** There are several sectoral bodies contributing to this strategic objective and it is recommended that collaborating together in developing a programmatic approach that builds on previous confidence-building initiatives can strengthen implementation in a cross-sectoral manner, particularly those that relate to youth. It is recommended that resources be leveraged to rationalise and consolidate initiatives currently being implemented

and those in the pipeline among the sectoral bodies related to education and youth.

37. **Milestones:** The following milestones are recorded as sectoral and cross-sectoral achievements. Refer to Annex 1 for a more detailed description of the outstanding work exemplified by the ASEAN Credit Transfer System.

Milestones
<p>Education</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2013: ASEAN Youth Programme Fund (AYPF) (May) • 2012: ASEAN 5-Year Work Plan on Education (2011-2015) (October) • 2011: Launching of ASEAN Credit Transfer System (ACTS) • 2009: Cha-Am Hua Hin Declaration on Strengthening Cooperation on Education to Achieve an ASEAN Caring and Sharing Community (October)
<p>Labour</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2012: Plan of Action on Revitalizing ASEAN OSHNET (May) • 2011: Establishment of the ASEAN Occupational Safety and Health Network (OSHNET) website: www.asean-oshnet.org (April) • 2011: ASEAN Guidance Notes on Occupational Safety and Health Management System for SMEs (Feb) • 2010: ASEAN Leaders Statement on Human Resources and Skills Development for Economic Recovery and Sustainable Growth (October) • 2010: ASEAN Guidelines on Good Industrial Relations (May) • 2008: Establishment of the regular ASEAN Forum on Migrant Labour as a platform for exchange of views between governments, employers' organisations, employees' organisations, and civil society (September) • 2008: Establishment of ASEAN Committee on the Implementation of Declaration on Protection and Promotion of the Rights of Migrant Workers (September) • 2008: Reconstitution of the Ad-Hoc Working Group as a permanent subsidiary body of SLOM named as "SLOM Working Group on Progressive Labour Practices to Enhance the Competitiveness of ASEAN" (May) • 2008: Establishment of the SLOM Working Group on HIV Prevention and Control in the Work Place (May)
<p>Civil Service</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2012: Establishment of the ACCSM+3 Joint Technical Working Group Meeting and ASEAN+3 Heads of Civil Service Meeting as an implementation of the Luang Prabang Joint Declaration on ASEAN Plus Three Civil Service Cooperation (October) • 2010: Luang Prabang Joint Declaration on ASEAN Plus Three Civil Service Cooperation (October) • 1995-present: Establishment and operationalisation of ten ASEAN Resource Centres (ARCs) on Managing New Technologies (Brunei Darussalam), Capacity Development of Civil Servants (Cambodia), Information Exchange (Indonesia), Civil Service Performance Management (Lao PDR), Case Studies (Malaysia), Training of Trainers (Myanmar), Examination and Testing (the Philippines), Human Resource Management Programme (Singapore), Leadership Development (Thailand), and Personnel Management (Viet Nam)
<p>Science and Technology</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2013: The 13th ASEAN Food Conference was hosted by Singapore in September 2013; the 2nd ASEAN Plus Three Junior Science Odyssey (APT-JSO) was hosted by the ROK in Busan in July 2013 • 2012: ASEAN-EU Year of Science and Technology; ASEAN-China Year of Science and Technology; the 1st ASEAN-China S&T Ministerial Meeting was convened and the China-ASEAN Science and Technology Partnership (STEP) programme was launched in Nanning, China in September 2012; the 1st ASEAN Plus Three Junior Science Odyssey

Milestones
<p>(APT-JSO) was hosted by Brunei Darussalam; Publication of the report on the state of S&T development in ASEAN</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2011: Establishment of the ASEAN-ROK Joint Science and Technology Committee; the implementation plans of COST's 6 flagship programmes were finalised following the ASCC implementation-focused monitoring system as guide • 2010: The ASEAN S&T Ministers adopted the Krabi Initiative (KI). The KI puts equal importance to innovation and called for a paradigm shift to enable delivery of science , technology and innovation (STI) agenda in ASEAN; the implementation of the ASEAN Plan of Action on Science and Technology (APAST 2007-2011) was extended to 2015, taking into account the KI and other relevant decisions of the S&T Ministers. • 2009: Establishment of the ASEAN-Japan Cooperation Committee on Science and Technology (AJCCST).

Characteristic: Social Welfare and Protection

38. **Goal:** ASEAN is committed to enhancing the well-being and livelihood of the peoples of ASEAN through alleviating poverty, ensuring social welfare and protection, building a safe, secure and drug-free environment, enhancing disaster resilience and addressing health development concerns.

Social Welfare and Protection Elements
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Poverty alleviation 2. Social safety net and protection from the negative impacts of integration and globalization 3. Enhancing food security and safety 4. Access to healthcare and promotion of healthy lifestyles 5. Improving capability to control communicable diseases 6. Ensuring a drug-free ASEAN 7. Building disaster-resilient nations and safer communities

39. **Overall assessment:** Implementation under this characteristic is progressing satisfactorily to achieve the stated objective. The initiatives being implemented are highly relevant as they are in the areas of building capacity of government officials involved in this sector through seminars and training courses attended. Furthermore, these initiatives have the potential to improve quality of life through better social protection mechanisms; institutionalised regional mechanisms in addressing emerging infectious diseases; promotion of healthy lifestyles; adequate, accessible, affordable, and quality healthcare and services; access to adequate and safe food at all times and being better prepared to respond to pandemic diseases and disasters.
40. The Human Development Index (HDI) has shown progressive improvement for all AMS since 2005. It was reported in the ASEAN Brief 2012: Progress Towards the ASEAN Community that HDI rose from 0.635 in 2005 to 0.657 in 2010. Likewise, the extent of absolute poverty (people living on less than PPP \$ 1.25 a day) in ASEAN “declined significantly between 2000 to 2010, from around 45 to 16 per cent in CLMV countries and from around 29 to 15 per cent in ASEAN-6”.⁴

4 ASEAN (2013) ASEAN Brief 2012: Progress towards the ASEAN Community, page 7

Life expectancy at birth increased from the average of 71.07 years in 2008 to 71.57 years in 2010, and some signs of ageing societies in some AMS. Results of indicators for Millennium Development Goals such as those relevant to eradication of poverty and hunger; and reduction of incidence of HIV and AIDS, malaria and other diseases have shown favorable progress from 1990 to 2010. This is based on the 2011 ASEAN Statistical Report on the Millennium Development Goals.

41. **Progress of Implementation:** Implementation appears to be on track recognising the challenges involved. This is because the initiatives being implemented are at different levels of cooperation ranging from confidence building to harmonisation and or joint efforts for regional integration. At the same time, some initiatives have been completed in the last two years while other initiatives are still ongoing. Other initiatives are pending as the proposals are in various stages of resource mobilisation. There has been effective mobilisation of participation across the sectoral bodies towards strategic objectives. Gender mainstreaming across sectors, early child care and development responds to the concerns of persons with disabilities, comprehensive care for the elderly, social protection, and reducing multidimensional poverty are some of the examples of cross-sectoral issues that are being addressed through joint efforts by multiple ASEAN sectoral bodies and in partnerships with stakeholders. Meaningful participation of stakeholders has been cultivated over the years through various mechanisms, including the regular dialogue platforms between government officials and CSOs/NGOs in the social welfare and poverty eradication sectors, establishment of the ASEAN Social Work Consortium and the ASEAN Women Entrepreneurs' Network. There is a need to continue strengthening initiatives that respond to disaster risk reduction and mitigating occurrence towards the objective of building more resilient communities in the region.

42. Clustering of action lines was also done to maximize resources and results. Concrete outputs were also reflected at the national level through various cooperation efforts with the involvement of multiple stakeholders. Cross-sector coordination delivered targeted outputs essential to advancing the strategic objectives. With more partners mobilised to participate in cooperation, more resources were made available to this ASEAN agenda and faster turn around was achieved as a result of joint work. Overlap was also minimized and complementation based on feedback from various stakeholders was also observed. Worth noting is the implementation of the ASEAN Agreement on Disaster Management and Emergency Response (AADMER), a regional framework for reducing disaster losses and enhancing disaster responses with a detailed Work Programme to monitor progress and the ASEAN Coordinating Centre for Humanitarian Assistance (AHA Center) to serve as the operational engine. Engagement with civil society through the AADMER Partnership Group (APG) provides further technical support to ASEAN, in particular in terms of institutionalising AADMER at the national levels and deepen multi-stakeholder engagement.

43. **Recommendations:** It is recommended that rationalization and consolidation of initiatives among the sectoral bodies for cross-pillar and cross-sector

cooperation be further undertaken to leverage necessary resources and expertise. Strengthening of existing regional mechanisms and continuation of ASEAN's political commitments are important.

44. **Milestones:** The following milestones can be recorded as sectoral and cross-sectoral achievements. Refer to Annex 1 for a more detailed description of outstanding efforts as exemplified by AADMER.

Milestones
<p>Labour</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2010: ASEAN Guidelines on Classification Labelling and Packaging of Hazardous Chemicals (April) <p>Rural Development and Poverty Alleviation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2013: The First of the ASEAN Rural Development and Poverty Eradication Leadership biennial Awards were presented to nine accomplished NGOs/CSOs from AMS in conjunction with the 8th AMRDPE in August 2013 2012: RDPE Framework Action Plan 2011-2015 2012: ASEAN+3 Youth Rural Activist Exchange Programme (September, Indonesia) as the first implementation of ASEAN Volunteers Programme in rural development and poverty eradication sector 2012: The first of annual ASEAN Forum on Rural Development and Poverty Eradication (June, Viet Nam) 2011: Establishment of ASEAN Forum on Rural Development and Poverty Eradication as a platform of dialogue between governments and NGOs/CSOs in AMS (October) 2011: Development of the regular ASEAN Rural Development and Poverty Eradication Leadership Awards (October). 2011: ASEAN Roadmap for the attainment of MDGs (August) 2009: Joint Declaration on the attainment of MDGs in ASEAN (March) <p>Social Welfare and Development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2012 : Mobilisation Framework of the ASEAN Decade of Persons with Disabilities (2011-2012) (September) 2011 : Bali Declaration on the Enhancement of the Role and Participation the Persons with Disabilities (November) 2010: Endorsement of ASEAN Social Work Consortium Work Plan (January) 2010 2010: Ha Noi Declaration on the Enhancement of Welfare and Development of ASEAN Women and Children (May) 2008: Establishment of the ASEAN Social Work Consortium and its Terms of Reference (December). Its TOR and Work Plan were then endorsed in January 2010 <p>Health</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2013: Endorsement of Bandar Seri Begawan Declaration on Non-communicable Diseases in ASEAN by 8th SOMHD and AHMM, (August) 2013: Endorsement of Four (4) ASEAN Focal Points on Tobacco Control (AFPTC) Recommendations and One (1) Endorsed Sharing Mechanism of Pictorial Health Warning (8th SOMHD, August. The four (4) Recommendations namely: 1) AFPTC Recommendations on Providing Protection from Exposure to Tobacco Smoke; 2) AFTPC Recommendations on Protecting Public Health Policy with Respect to Tobacco Control Industry Interference; 3) AFPTC Recommendations on Price and Tax Measures to Reduce the Demand for Tobacco Products; and 4) AFPTC Recommendations on Banning Tobacco Advertising, Promotion, and Sponsorship (TAPS) 2012: Declaration of the 7th East Asia Summit on Regional Responses to Malaria Control and Addressing Resistance to Antimalarial Medicines Phnom Penh, Cambodia, (November)

Milestones

- 2010: Endorsement of ASEAN Strategic Framework on Health Development for 2010-2015 (10th AHMM, July)
- 2012: Establishment of ASEAN Plus Three Universal Health Coverage (UHC) Network (December, Bangkok - Thailand)
- 2012: Signed Memorandum of Understanding Between the Governments of the Member States of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) and the Government of the People's Republic of China on Health Cooperation (4th ACHMM, July, Phuket - Thailand)
- 2012: Launching of ASEAN Health Publications: ASEAN Health Profile; ASEAN Tobacco Control Report; ASEAN E-Health Bulletins (11th AHMM, July)
- 2012: Nomination of 13 sites for the ASEAN Cities Getting to Zeros Project in eight (8) ASEAN Member States (11th AHMM, July)
- 2011: ASEAN Declaration of Commitment: Getting to Zero New HIV Infections, Zero Discrimination, Zero AIDS Related Deaths (19th ASEAN Summit, November)
- 2011: ASEAN Position Paper on Non-Communicable Diseases at the High Level Meeting on Non-Communicable Diseases: Prevention and Control, UN General Assembly, (September, New York)
- 2011: Establishment of Four new Task Forces: Traditional Medicine, Mental Health, Non-Communicable Diseases, Maternal and Child Health (6th SOMHD, July)
- 2011: Endorsement of Policy on Smoke-free ASEAN Events (6th SOMHD, July)
- 2011: Official Launching by Indonesia of ASEAN Dengue Day on in Jakarta on 15 June (as endorsed by the 10th AHMM, July 2010)
- 2010: Establishment of Regional Mechanisms in Responding to Emerging Infectious Diseases including: ASEAN Plus Three EID Website (2008), ASEAN Plus Three Field Epidemiology Training Network (10th AHMM & 4th APTHMM,); ASEAN Plus Three Partnership Laboratories (10th AHMM & 4th APTHMM,); ASEAN Risk Communication Center (10th AHMM,); and ASEAN Dengue Day on 15 June (10th AHMM)

Disaster Management

- 2012: Convening of the First Meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP) to the AADMER (March 2012)
- 2012: Setting up of the ASEAN Disaster Management and Emergency Relief (ADMER) Fund (March 2012)
- 2012: Setting up of the annual and equal contributions for the AHA Centre Fund (March 2012)
- 2012: Adoption of the ASEAN-UN Strategic Plan on Disaster Management (March 2012)
- 2012: First AHA Centre's response and deployment of the logistic stockpile to a disaster within the region (November 2012)
- 2012: Launch of the ASEAN Disaster Emergency Logistic System for ASEAN (DELSA) in Subang, Malaysia (December 2012)
- 2012: Launch of the ASEAN Disaster Monitoring and Response System (DMRS) at the AHA Centre (November 2012)
- 2011: Launch and signing of the Agreement on the Establishment of the AHA Centre (November 2011)
- 2011: Launch of the ASEAN Disaster Risk Financing and Insurance (DRFI) Roadmap adopted by three ASEAN's sectors (November 2011)
- 2010: Adoption of the Joint Declaration on ASEAN-UN Collaboration in Disaster Management (October)
- 2010: Closing of the ASEAN-led coordinating mechanism in Myanmar in response to Cyclone Nargis, and launch of the ASEAN Book Series on Post-Nargis Response (July)
- 2010: Adoption of the AADMER Work Programme for 2010-2015 (March 2010) and launch to the partners at the First AADMER Partnership Conference (May)
- 2009: Entry into force of the ASEAN Agreement on Disaster Management and Emergency Response (December)
- 2009: Cooperation with the AADMER Partnership Group (APG) to get the civil society to support implementation of AADMER (July)

Milestones
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2009: Assignment of Secretary-General of ASEAN as the ASEAN Humanitarian Assistance Coordinator by the ASEAN Leaders at the 14th ASEAN Summit (March)

Characteristic: Social Justice and Rights

45. **Goal** : ASEAN is committed to promoting social justice and mainstreaming people’s rights into its policies and all spheres of life, including the rights and welfare of disadvantaged, vulnerable and marginalised groups such as women, children, the elderly, persons with disabilities and migrant workers.

Social Justice and Rights Elements
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Promotion and protection of the rights and welfare of women, children, the elderly, and persons with disabilities 2. Protection and promotion of the rights of migrant workers 3. Promoting Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR)

46. **Overall Assessment**: It is noted that implementation of the social justice and rights characteristic is progressing satisfactorily towards meeting the strategic objective. This characteristic is centered on rights for the vulnerable and marginalised in ASEAN. Institutional mechanisms to facilitate cooperation to promote social justice and rights of vulnerable groups have been strengthened with the establishment of the ASEAN Commission on the Promotion and Protection of the Rights of Women and Children (ACWC), and the ongoing development of an ASEAN instrument for the protection and promotion of the rights of migrant workers. The ASEAN Decade of Persons with Disabilities 2011-2020 proclaimed at the 19th ASEAN Summit in 2011 has been translated into joint efforts since then. Child participation at regional level is being facilitated through the biennial ASEAN Children’s Forum since 2010. Acknowledging the importance of holistic approach and partnership with stakeholders in promoting social justice and rights, the establishment of older people’s associations in AMS, ASEAN research networking on ageing, ASEAN network for family development, ASEAN network of experts on inclusive entrepreneurship, and ASEAN+3 network for the empowerment of persons with disabilities are ongoing. Currently, the activities are relevant because they address sectoral work plans and focus on building capacity, sharing good practices and lessons learnt, and raising awareness to equip stakeholders with knowledge, know-how and skills to meet the strategic objective.

47. **Progress of Implementation**: It is recognised that the steady efforts in implementation at the mid-point of the ASCC Blueprint will eventually result in an enhanced quality of life for vulnerable groups in ASEAN.

48. At the same time, 78% of the actions under this characteristic have been addressed through the conduct of various undertakings. While many of the activities implemented are categorised under confidence-building and joint

efforts, they reveal the necessity of building understanding before working towards harmonisation in order to better undertake regional policy initiatives.

49. **Recommendations:** The implementation of activities can be made more effective if similar activities are streamlined with ASEAN sectoral bodies working on similar subjects with regards to capacity building, networking and sharing of information to maximize resources—whether financial or human.
50. **Milestones:** The following milestones are recorded as sectoral and cross-sectoral achievements. Refer to Annex 1 for a more detailed description of the outstanding work exemplified in the development of the ASEAN Framework Instrument on the Protection and Promotion of the Rights of Migrant Workers.

Milestones
<p>Labour</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2012: Roadmap on the Elimination of the Worst Form of Child Labour by 2016 (November) • 2009: Drafting process of the ASEAN instrument on the protection and promotion of the rights of migrant workers by the ACMW Drafting Team began (April). <p>Social Welfare and Development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2012: Mobilisation Framework of the ASEAN Decade of Persons with Disabilities (2011-2012) (September) • 2011: Proclamation of the ASEAN Decade of Persons with Disabilities (2011-2020) (November) • 2011: Bali Declaration on the Enhancement of the Role and Participation of the Persons with Disabilities (November) • 2010: Brunei Darussalam Declaration on Strengthening Family Institution: Caring for the Elderly (November) • 2010: Hanoi Declaration on the Enhancement of Welfare and Development of ASEAN Women and Children, (October) • 2010: Establishment of the ASEAN Commission on the Promotion and Protection of the Rights of Women and Children (ACWC) (April) • 2010: Establishment of the biennial ASEAN Children's Forum as a platform to voice aspiration concerns of children from AMS on matters concerning their life. The First Forum was held in October 2010 in the Philippines • 2010: Endorsement of ASEAN Social Work Consortium Work Plan (January) 2010 • 2008: Establishment of the ASEAN Social Work Consortium and its Terms of Reference <p>Women and Children</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2012: 1st Meeting of AMMW in Vientiane, Lao PDR. (October) • 2012: Establishment of the ASEAN Women Entrepreneurs' Network and adoption of its Terms of Reference (October) • 2012: Vientiane Declaration on Enhancing Gender Perspective and ASEAN Women's Partnership for Environmental Sustainability (October) • 2011: Establishment of the ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Women (AMMW) (November)

Characteristic: Ensuring Environmental Sustainability

51. **Goal:** ASEAN shall work towards achieving sustainable development as well as promoting clean and green environment by protecting the natural resource base for economic and social development including the sustainable management and conservation of soil, water, mineral, energy, biodiversity, forest, coastal and marine resources as well as the improvement in water and air quality for

the ASEAN region. ASEAN will actively participate in global efforts towards addressing global environmental challenges, including climate change and ozone layer protection, as well as developing and adapting environmentally sound technology for development needs and environmental sustainability.

Ensuring Environmental Sustainability Elements

1. Addressing global environmental issues
2. Managing and preventing transboundary environmental pollution
3. Promoting sustainable development through environmental education and public participation
4. Promoting Environmentally Sound Technology (EST)
5. Promoting sustainable development through environmental education and public participation
6. Harmonising environmental policies and databases
7. Promoting the sustainable use of coastal & marine environment
8. Promoting sustainable management of natural resources & biodiversity
9. Promoting the sustainability of freshwater resources
10. Responding to climate change and addressing its impacts
11. Promoting Sustainable Forest Management (SFM)

52. **Overall Assessment:** The relevance of the implemented activities, where information is available, is high and is in accordance with their designated action lines and the strategic objectives. Overall, the activities and projects implemented resonate with the goal towards achieving and ensuring environmental sustainability. AMS' Environmental Performance Index (EPI) scores in 2010 and 2012, which are used as the overall indicator to monitor the progress of implementation of Section D (Ensuring Environmental Sustainability) of the ASCC Community Blueprint, reflect good and well-maintained environmental health and ecosystem vitality, with AMS above average EPI score of 57.95 in 2010 and 56.63 in 2012 (range of 0 to 100) (note: The absolute scores are not comparable over time due to different methodology and indicator sets). The Trend EPI shows overall positive improvements with an average AMS' Trend EPI score of 6.54 (range of -50 to +50). While Brunei Darussalam received a Trend EPI score of -1.3, it received one of the highest EPI Scores among AMS. Thailand is ranked one of the Top 10 Trend Index Performers (10th) among 132 countries.
53. While the outputs of most projects were generally recorded as successful, achievement of goals/targets takes a longer time framework, and therefore trends are only noticeable if there is sufficient length of time for actions implemented to take effect. Given the very short time frame between the base/reference year (2009) and mid-term (2012), the trends observed may not be discernable or subject to unintended disturbances.
54. Some projects do make an attempt to have their activities reach the local level, such as the Project on Rehabilitation and Sustainable Use of Peatland Forests in Southeast Asia under the ASEAN Peatland Management Strategy, which contributes to the promotion of sustainable use of peatlands and alternative livelihoods, while preventing land and forest fires as peatlands are a major source of smoke haze in the region.

55. **Progress of Implementation:** In general, progress is satisfactory in this characteristic. While achievement has been made in ASEAN's overall cooperation in the environmental sector over the years, there is still considerable amount of work to be done towards 2015. Below are the highlights of the progress of implementation of environment-related action lines of the ASCC Blueprint:
- (a) Most AMS have ratified/acceded to the Basel Convention on Transboundary Movement of Hazardous Wastes. Most AMS have ratified/acceded to the Stockholm Convention, while all AMS have ratified/acceded to the Vienna Convention for the Protection of the Ozone Layer (Vienna Convention) and the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer (Montreal Protocol).
 - (b) Air quality standards and monitoring programmes in the ASEAN region have been established reasonably well. AMS share data on PM10 (particulate matter of less than 10 microns) for regular reporting by the ASEAN Specialised Meteorological Centre (ASMC), which enables monitoring of the dispersion and impact of transboundary smoke haze in the region, in addition to reporting on the number of hotspots and weather outlook.
 - (c) All AMS have incorporated environmental education (EE) elements into the formal curriculum at varying degrees at primary, secondary and tertiary levels.
 - (d) Six AMS already have ongoing eco-labelling schemes to encourage sustainable production.
 - (e) ASEAN has initiated the ASEAN Environmentally Sustainable City (ESC) Award programme to showcase and promote exemplary efforts, and will work on initiatives such as low carbon society, compact cities, eco-cities and environmentally sustainable transport.
 - (f) A number of environmental indicators have been harmonised across AMS in 2009, i.e. Key Indicators for Clean Air, Clean Land and Clean Water, ASEAN Marine Water Quality Criteria, ASEAN Criteria for Marine Heritage Areas, Criteria for Nomination of ASEAN Heritage Parks, and Millennium Development Goals (MDG) Indicators on Ensuring Environmental Sustainability. In 2012, ASEAN adopted a new criteria for recognition of Eco-schools.
 - (g) Most AMS have adopted integrated coastal management strategies to promote sustainable management of their coastal and marine resources. ASEAN has also published the ASEAN Marine Water Quality Management Guidelines and Monitoring Manual to provide guidance on a set of common approaches and methodologies that address marine water quality issues in ASEAN, including recommended methods for the implementation of marine water quality monitoring programmes.
 - (h) The ASEAN region had a total of 32 ASEAN Heritage Parks (AHPs) in 2012, an increase from 28 AHPs in 2009.

- (i) In 2006, the ASEAN region had about 86 percent of its population using improved water sources, about the same as the world average. With the advancement of technologies and rise in concern for human health, many AMS have placed strong emphasis on the need to improve drinking water sources.
- (j) All AMS have ratified/acceded to both the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the Kyoto Protocol. ASEAN is committed to playing a proactive role in addressing climate change issues, as reflected in the ASEAN Leaders’ Statements on Climate Change at their 2007, 2009, 2010 and 2011 Summits. ASEAN has also been responding to climate change by focusing on the implementation of relevant actions in the ASCC Blueprint 2009-2015 and the ASEAN Action Plan on Joint Response to Climate Change.

56. **Recommendation:** It is recommended that some action lines be prioritised, synchronized and combined. The number of action lines can then be better streamlined to enhance more strategic and faster implementation.

57. In view of the adoption of the 10-year Framework Programme on Sustainable Consumption and Production by the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20) held in 2012, the issue of Sustainable Consumption and Production is gaining importance, as acknowledged by the 24th Meeting of ASEAN Senior Officials on Environment (ASOEN) held on 28-29 August 2013 in Jakarta, Indonesia. SCP is recognised to cover a wider range of areas than environmentally sound technologies (EST) which are currently addressed in Section D4 of the ASCC Blueprint 2009-2015. To respond to this emerging issue, as proposed by ASOEN, the inclusion of sustainable consumption and production in ASCC Blueprint 2009-2015, may therefore be considered. Section D4 of the ASCC Blueprint could be expanded by renaming the current section of D4 ‘Promoting Environmentally Sound Technology’ to ‘Promoting Sustainable Consumption and Production’, with EST as one of its action lines.

58. **Milestones:** The following milestones are recorded as sectoral and cross-sectoral achievements. Refer to Annex 1 for a more detailed description of the outstanding work as exemplified by the ASEAN Peatland Management Initiative & Strategy.

Milestones
<p>Transboundary Haze</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2012: Development of ASEAN-wide Fire Danger Rating System (May) • 2010: Establishment of ASEAN Ministerial Steering-committee on Transboundary Haze Pollution in Mekong Region • 2009: US\$ 15 million IFAD/GEF regional project on Rehabilitation and Sustainable Use of Peatland Forests in Southeast Asia (2009-2013) <p>Environmental Education</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2012: ASEAN Environment Year 2012: Environmental Awareness through Eco-school Urban Environmental Management • 2011: 2nd ASEAN Environmentally Sustainable City (ESC) Award 2011

Milestones

- 2011: ASEAN Guidelines on Eco-Schools (October)
- 2009: ASEAN 2009: 2.5 million Euro Clean Air for Smaller Cities Project (2009-2012)
- Environment Year 2009 - Ecotourism: Our Nature, Our Culture

Environmental Education

- 2008: 1st ASEAN Environmentally Sustainable City (ESC) ward 2008
- 2009: 2.5 million Euro Clean Air for Smaller Cities Project (2009-2012)
- 2011: 2nd ASEAN Environmentally Sustainable City (ESC) Award 2011

Coastal and Marine Environment

- 2009: ASEAN Mechanism to Enhance Surveillance Against Illegal Desludging and Disposal of Tanker Sludge at Sea

Nature Conservation and Biodiversity

- 2012: Delhi Declaration of India-ASEAN Environment Ministers on Biodiversity
- 2012: Adoption of Nat Ma Taung National Park (Myanmar) and U Minh Thuong National Park (Viet Nam) as ASEAN Heritage Parks
- 2011: Adoption of Mt. Malindang Range Natural Park of the Philippines and Bukit Timah Nature Reserve
- of Singapore as the 29th and 30th ASEAN Heritage Parks (AHP)
- 2010: 5.2-million Euro project on Biodiversity and Climate Change (2010-2015)
- 2009: Entry into Force of the Establishment Agreement (EA) of the ASEAN Centre on Biodiversity (ACB) (July)
- 2009: Adoption of the Mount Kitanglad Range Natural Park in the Philippines as the 28th ASEAN Heritage Park (AHP) (October)

Management of Freshwater Resources

- 2013: Development of ASEAN Water Data Management and Reporting System Design (June)

Climate Change

- 2011: ASEAN Leaders' Statement on Climate Change to the 17th Session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) (COP17) and the 7th Session of the Conference of Parties serving as the Meeting of Parties (CMP7)
- 2010: ASEAN Leaders' Statement on Joint Response to Climate Change
- 2009: Establishment of ASEAN Working Group on Climate Change to implement ASEAN Climate Change Initiative (October)
- 2009: ASEAN Joint Statement on Climate Change to the 15th Session of the Conference of the Parties (COP15) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the 5th Session of the Conference of Parties serving at the Meeting of Parties (CMP-5) to the Kyoto Protocol

Characteristic: Building ASEAN Identity

59. **Goal:** The ASEAN identity is the basis of Southeast Asia's regional interests. It is our collective personality, norms, values and beliefs as well as aspirations as one ASEAN community. ASEAN will mainstream and promote greater awareness and common values in the spirit of unity in diversity at all levels of society.

Building ASEAN Identity Elements

1. Promotion of ASEAN awareness and a sense of community
2. Preservation and promotion of ASEAN cultural heritage
3. Engagement with the community

60. **Overall Assessment:** Building ASEAN identity is a cross-cutting goal of the three ASEAN Community pillars. The ASCC has pursued this by enhancing ASEAN's inherent resource and strength found in its diverse and rich cultural heritage and traditions, and its people, especially the youth. The goal of achieving an ASEAN identity has progressed through various confidence-building activities among AMS with primary focus given to human capacity building. The completed and ongoing actions and projects are deemed highly relevant in achieving the strategic objective of creating a sense of belonging, of consolidating unity in diversity, and of deepening mutual understanding among ASEAN Member States. The different initiatives at the national and regional levels also indicate high commitment of the AMS in pursuing this goal. At the national level, capacities have been built among personnel of responsible agencies participating in regional cooperation. This has resulted in the inspired and energized implementation of national targets.

61. In the context of education, school students throughout the region are set to learn more about ASEAN as part of their classroom lessons. The ASEAN Curriculum Sourcebook, a toolkit for teachers to incorporate ASEAN themes into classes in all subject areas in primary and secondary schools, was launched at the opening ceremony of the 7th ASEAN Education Ministers Meeting (7th ASED) on 4 July 2012 in Yogyakarta. This reference material was developed to promote greater awareness of ASEAN and build a common ASEAN identity. At the higher education level, ASEAN Studies courses for postgraduates have been set up to provide an advanced level of understanding of the political, economic, social and cultural forces which shape ASEAN as well as the attendant policy process in a range of issue areas. The Asia-Europe Institute of University of Malaya (AEI-UM) is hosting the International Master in ASEAN Studies (IMAS), a prioritised activity of the AUN in response to the promotion of ASEAN awareness and the enhancement of human resources development in ASEAN under the Social-Cultural pillar of the ASEAN Community.

62. The strategy of strongly involving the youth sector for the ASEAN identity-building agenda is also commendable because of the higher mobility of this sector and its ability to make full use of ICT which is key to connecting people, ideas, and shared aspirations. The ASEAN Youth Volunteers' Programme (AYVP) and the ASEAN Young Professionals Volunteer Corps (AYPVC) are concrete initiatives engaging young people at different levels to serve our community and strengthen our bonds. If fully operationalised, these programs will help sustain the ASEAN identity building.

63. **Progress of Implementation:** Overall, the achievement of targets is commendable in some elements but needs improvement in others. The dissemination of information and the reporting mechanism should be improved to reflect the rich and diverse activities implemented. The achieved milestones indicate that serious efforts of AMS and sectoral bodies have transformed into building blocks in pursuing the objectives for the remaining period. Showcasing the culture and arts of ASEAN Member States through festivals

and performing arts exhibitions in ASEAN and abroad, such as the Best of ASEAN Performing Arts Series and the ASEAN Festival of Arts, is raising awareness and introducing the diverse culture of ASEAN. The introduction of the ASEAN-COCI Small Grant Scheme (SGS) is a commendable initiative to support small but innovative activities. The networking among students and young people as partners of ASEAN and the recognition of the emergence of new and social media as important tools for communication and interaction in ASEAN are some of the critical steps taken to promote ASEAN awareness more effectively.

64. **Recommendations:** With all the achievements at hand, a more effective communication strategy needs to be urgently developed to effectively interface with ASEAN stakeholders – governments, the private sector and people – to engage them to collaborate in transmitting and carrying out the ASEAN message of community building to all citizens. The ASEAN websites and the continuing link with multimedia sectors should be further developed. Existing ASEAN promotional materials should also be promoted to commercial/mainstream media channels where the viewing population is higher. The national and master communications plans in support of ASEAN identity building should be fully implemented with the aim of improved programmatic cooperation. The sectoral bodies should be fully mobilised and engaged to be able to draw as much information and updates in the form of stories, such as ASEAN’s actions that matter to the lives of the people. ASEAN cooperation around core development issues (e.g. employment, cultural exchange, trans-boundary health, and natural disasters) are not well known although they are clearly responsive and the basis for forming an integrated ASEAN community. The sectoral bodies should also integrate their respective programs and activities at the local/national level into existing ASEAN promotional packages (videos, movies, games) that would contribute to the goal of building one ASEAN identity.

65. **Milestones:**

Milestones	
Information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2012: Guidelines for ASEAN Digital Switch-Over (Mar 12) • 2012: Guidelines Towards ASEAN Integration–Leveraging on Social Media to Promote ASEAN Awareness and Integration • 2004-present: The implementation of the annual ASEAN Quiz program (national and regional level)
Culture and Arts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2012: Series of Culture and Arts Work Stream (multi-year), e.g. ASEAN Ancient Cities Network, ASEAN Youth Camp, ASEAN Library Network, Creative Industry (SMCEs) • 2011: Launching of ASEAN City of Culture (March) • 2011: ASEAN Declaration on Cultural Diversity: Towards Strengthening ASEAN Community (November) • 2010: Launching of the ASEAN Computer Game entitled “The ASEAN Chronicles: Legend of the Golden Talisman” • 2008-present: The Best of ASEAN Performing Arts Series held in Jakarta to promote ASEAN awareness through the region’s rich and diverse cultures as well as to acknowledge the

Milestones

important role that Jakarta has played over the last 36 years as the host city of the ASEAN Secretariat and head quarters of ASEAN. The best of Series also reflects ASEAN's common shared values and history that will contribute towards building an ASEAN Identity and ASEAN Awareness

- 2002-present: The Biennial ASEAN Festival of Arts that is held in conjunction with the ASEAN Ministers Responsible for Culture and Arts Meeting aimed to showcase the diverse cultures of ASEAN to its peoples

Education

- 2012: The ASEAN Curriculum Sourcebook (July)
- 2012: ASEAN Studies Modules and Instructor Manual to be taught for undergraduates (AUN).
- 2006-present : ASEAN Studies Programme for postgraduates hosted by the AEI-UM.

Youth

- 2013: ASEAN Youth Volunteer Programme (AYVP) (September).
- 2013: ASEAN Youth Professionals Volunteer Corps (AYPVC) (September).

Narrowing the Development Gap

66. Aimed at narrowing the development divide and enhancing ASEAN's competitiveness, the ASEAN Leaders at their Summit in 2000 launched the Initiative for ASEAN Integration (IAI) with the objectives of narrowing the development gap and accelerating economic integration in ASEAN. The IAI is directed at the newer members of ASEAN, namely Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, and Viet Nam. Sub-regional groupings, such as the Greater Mekong Sub-region (GMS), Brunei Darussalam – Indonesia – Malaysia – Philippines East ASEAN Growth Area (BIMP-EAGA) and the Indonesia-Malaysia-Thailand Growth Triangle (IMT-GT) are seen as playing a critical role to the NDG objectives. This will assist the relevant countries to meet ASEAN-wide targets and commitments.
67. The first IAI Work Plan (2002-2008), endorsed by the Leaders at the 8th ASEAN Summit in 2002, had priorities addressing infrastructure (transport and energy); human resource development (public sector capacity building, labour and employment, and higher education); information and communication technologies (ICT); and, regional economic integration (trade in goods and services, customs, standards and investment). Tourism and poverty alleviation have also been included. The second IAI Work Plan (2009-2015), endorsed in 2009 at the 14th ASEAN Summit, is based on key programme areas in the ASEAN Political-Security Community Blueprint, ASEAN Economic Community Blueprint and ASCC Blueprint.
68. The NDG is the only characteristic under the ASCC Blueprint that has achieved a 100% implementation rate (i.e. all eight actions are either completed or ongoing with nothing pending) at the time of the MTR. However, as reflected in the implementation - focused monitoring report as of 20 June 2013, all the action lines are under the purview of AEC

sectoral bodies. Most of the activities belong to the special assistance level of cooperation and the confidence-building and harmonisation types of development cooperation.

ASCC Financing

69. The ASEAN Member States contribute to the implementation of the ASCC Blueprint, at both regional and national levels, in the following ways:

- a. **Cash contributions to specific regional budgets and funds.** Some of these are ASEAN-wide, while some are specifically setup to serve particular purposes. This includes among others:
 - ASEAN-wide funds:
 - o ASEC Operating Budget (AOB)
 - o ASEAN Development Fund (ADF) – an endowment fund to support the implementation of the Roadmap for an ASEAN Community (2009-2015), among workplans. This can provide as leverage counterpart funding of up to 20% of regional cooperation programmes, seed funding for large-scale projects supported by donors and full funding for small and short-term projects of confidential and strategic nature.
 - ASCC-related funds:
 - o ASEAN Science and Technology Fund, an endowment fund
 - o ASEAN Haze Fund
 - o ASEAN Biodiversity Fund
 - o AADMER Fund with each AMS contributing on a voluntary basis
 - o Operational Fund for the AHA Centre - with AMS contributing USD 30,000 annually
 - o ASEAN Youth Programme Fund
 - o ASEAN Singapore Youth Fund
- b. **In-kind contributions to regional projects and meetings.** For projects, AMS contributions include providing personnel, office facilities, time, etc. For meetings, this includes shouldering in-country costs as hosts, financing the cost of participation of AMS delegations, etc.
- c. **Cash and in-kind contributions to national programmes** that also implement ASCC-related activities at the national level.

70. Meanwhile, ASEAN also partners with ASEAN Dialogue Partners and External Partners to augment its own resources. Their contributions are made through ASEAN-wide initiatives as well as those specific for the ASCC. A list of contributors supporting the ASCC Blueprint is provided in Annex 2. They contribute through the following ways:

- a. **Supporting multi-year regional programmes and one-off projects/activities.**

- ASEAN-USAID Multi-sectoral Pandemic Preparedness
 - SEAPEAT – Sustainable Management of Peatland Forest in Southeast Asia
 - AUSAid Funding Support for Emerging Infectious Diseases
 - UNAIDS/UNDP Support for HIV and AIDS initiatives in ASEAN
- b. **Providing technical assistance through experts, advisers and additional staff complement**

Notable technical assistance programs include the assistance provided by UNISDR and OFXAM through the AADMER Partnership Group (APG) which provides dedicated advisers on disaster risk reduction, partnership and resource mobilisation to the implementation of the AADMER Workplan.

- c. **Setting up additional funds for specific purposes such as capacity-building, etc.**

Specific to ASCC, an example is the ASEAN Cultural Fund (ACF), established in 1978, an endowment fund managed by ASEAN from an unconditional contribution from the Government of Japan of 5 billion yen. The ACF funds the projects under the Committee of Culture and Information (COCI) which ranges from USD 700,000 to USD 1 million a year.

Other ASCC-related funds include the ASEAN-India Green Fund and the Japan-funded JAFTA/East Asia Youth Exchange Fund/Kizuna Project/JENESYS which fund youth exchange and youth capacity building activities.

These cash and in-kind contributions are usually channelled to regional mechanisms (through ASEAN Secretariat, dedicated regional programmes set-up for the purpose, directly to the implementing sectoral bodies) or directly to the AMS.

71. Given these various financing and co-sharing modalities, with different kinds of contributions and coming from all sources, there is some difficulty in accounting for and estimating all the resources used to implement the ASCC Blueprint.
72. Presently, the grant management database in ASEC is not able to capture all resources mobilised from all donors, generate up-to-date information or be linked to the ASEC financial system. Current capacity is limited to reporting on contributions from Dialogue and Development Partners and from certain ASEAN sectoral funds. Bearing in mind this limitation, it reported that, from 2009 to 2012, almost USD 624 million was mobilised. ASCC received 55.46% of all contributions, the allocation of which was very specific to certain priority areas within the ASCC such as youth, education, environment, etc. Some are multi-year programmes while others are short-term projects. Projects are short-term in duration funding activities/workshops while programmes are for a longer duration of 3 to 5 years, funding activities that would result in certain

objectives of the programmes being realised within the strategic objectives of the ASCC Blueprint.

73. Nevertheless, key observations can be made in this regard:
- a. Across all sectors, the continued support of the AMS by ensuring funding availability to host ASEAN meetings and attend regular regional meetings, from ministerial to working group levels, to undertake ASEAN events and implement ASCC-related national programmes and projects, ensure that the work of the ASCC is supported at both regional and national levels. However, there is no system set in place to capture allocations and expenditures from AMS as it was also shared that it would be difficult for AMS to provide a breakdown of such specific allocations from the national budget.
 - b. There is financial support for regional programmes and projects of some sectors like Culture and Information, Science and Technology, Youth, Environment, Disaster Management, and Health and Communicable Diseases. This is due to the cash and in-kind contributions of AMS, specifically the funds that AMS has set-up for them, and the assistance programs provided by Dialogue Partners and External Partners.
 - c. However, other sectors that do not have dedicated funds, or are not included in the priorities of Dialogue Partners and Development Partners, may need additional support to mobilise resources to implement their respective actions under the ASCC Blueprint.
 - d. Funding for related cross-sectoral issues is also a challenge because of the limitations on the scope and TOR of ASEAN-wide funds and sector-specific funds, as well as interest of donors and sectoral bodies.
 - e. Whether there is financial support or not, there is no determination whether such is sufficient enough to support the full and effective implementation of the ASCC Blueprint and the related cross-cutting issues.
74. Thus, further in-depth analysis would be required to determine the extent of funding requirements to implement the ASCC Blueprint and the cross-cutting issues until 2015. Likewise, a study on the replication of the Small Grant Scheme of the COCI may also be undertaken to see how resources can be further devolved in the sectors. A resource mobilisation strategy that is in line with key priority areas for implementation is needed. This strategy will include the formulation of more strategic proposals to avail of funding that are presently within ASEAN and those within particular sectors.

VI. PROGRESS OF ASCC BLUEPRINT IMPLEMENTATION AT NATIONAL LEVEL

75. The analysis of the national assessments took a similar approach to that of the regional assessment of the ASCC Blueprint implementation. Based on the reports received, whenever possible, information from the national assessments was categorised based on the evaluation parameters and the scores aggregated.

Overall Assessments

76. The countries have made satisfactory progress in their implementation of the five characteristics on human development, social welfare and protection, social justice and rights, environment sustainability and ASEAN identity awareness. Beyond the rating, it is important to note that the AMS have made major contributions to the attainment of the ASCC goals while at the same time contributing to their respective national development agenda.

Progress of Implementation

77. The implementation of the ASCC Blueprint by the AMS has been active and the activities developed are relevant as they reflect consistency with national priorities as some countries have mainstreamed the goals of ASCC into their national development plans. The high degree of coherence with national priorities enables national policy framework to be strengthened and reinforced. At the same time, implementation produces challenges as some AMS mentioned bottlenecks occurring with regards to resources like funding, expertise and human resources. Coordination with different sectoral bodies is also challenging as some AMS found duplication in implementation among sectoral bodies. Despite the challenges encountered, mechanisms for cross-cutting issues established under the ASCC Blueprint are being mainstreamed into current government structures at the national level.

Gaps and Challenges from the National Assessments

78. **Financial** – Some sectors do not have their own ASEAN funds to carry out projects and rely heavily on ASEAN Dialogue Partners and sponsorship of some external partners. In some countries, the capacity to formulate project proposal is low so their projects are not easily funded. Some projects, although very relevant to fulfill the ASCC Blueprint, are still pending due to the lack of funds. Although a significant amount of the budget has been allocated for projects and programmes related to ASEAN, many focal points still find it insufficient due to the regional scope of work. Moreover, the process of budget approval takes time, normally several months to over a year, which affects the efficiency of the Blueprint implementation. Some sectoral bodies that have

received funding support still encountered the challenge of limited human resources. In many sectors, the number of staff responsible for ASCC matters is limited.

- 79. Human Resources/Human Capacity/Technical Expertise/Language Proficiency** – Some projects in certain sectors could not be implemented as relevant technical expertise could not be identified. There are also limitations in terms of English proficiency and understanding the ASEAN mission, particularly the ASCC Blueprint. Moreover, some government officials face difficulties in managing regional cooperation matters although they are well trained to perform their tasks and routine work to meet their country’s regional cooperation activities.
- 80. Coordination and Cross-Sectoral Mechanisms**–For certain sectors, the projects were successfully implemented because there was an effective coordinating mechanism in place at the regional level. For others, however, the lack of a well-functioning coordinating mechanism leads to delays and inefficient resource allocation. Some countries also state that the constant re-appointments of both sectoral and project focal points cause difficulties in the coordination mechanisms. More importantly, coordination is often challenging with issues within cross-sectoral bodies. A more effective and clearer data flow is needed along with clearer authority for the sectoral bodies responsible for each area of work. National implementation in some countries should also be reviewed and improved to facilitate cooperation among related agencies on the implementation of these cross-cutting issues.
- 81. ASCC Monitoring Tools**–In many of the national assessment reports, certain sectors reported that ASCC monitoring tools–scorecards and the implementation monitoring system–were complicated and found to be not useful. Some national reports indicated that monitoring tools were useful and should be simplified. It was also stated that indicators were unclear, statistics were not fully integrative, and needed simplification. Even though some scorecard indicators have been stated and associated with some of the Blueprint elements, there is still no linkage between the accomplishment of the action lines and improvements in scorecard indicators. Therefore, information entered at the action-line level provides a partial measure of Blueprint implementation, and must be correlated with the quantitative indicators of the ASCC Scorecard. At the same time, it should be recognised that the monitoring and scorecard system developed by the ASEC are tools for monitoring and measuring the progress of the implementation of the ASCC Blueprint at the regional level. These systems were developed according to the logical framework approach. Data and information are entered by ASEC which then disseminates information on the systems. The associated sectoral bodies provide feedback to verify and/or add value to the systems. The systems may need to be modified to suit the requirements for regional and national assessments, and a sustained socialisation and training on the use of the systems needs to be put in place.

82. **Awareness of the ASCC Blueprint among officials and the general public** – Despite efforts, awareness of ASEAN in general, and ASCC and the Blueprint in particular, is still limited.

Recommendations from the National Assessments

83. **Financial Resources Mobilisation** – There should be efficient and effective financial resources mobilisation, particularly budget allocation for ASCC Blueprint projects/activities in some countries. This can be done by classifying the existing funds for each pillar and clearly communicating procedure, method and allocation. In countries where it is not already done, annual national budgets should be explicitly allocated for both ongoing domestic and regional programs.
84. **Capacity Building: International Competency** – There can be many initiatives undertaken to improve competency in some countries. For example, Member States, where needed, should provide training courses and promote understanding of ASEAN, particularly the ASCC Blueprint. It is advised that ASEAN should actively improve the capability of government officials, where necessary, through short and long-term training courses and regular performance evaluation; and raise the qualifications of emerging talents, particularly in communicating in English, and negotiation skills in countries where such capabilities are lacking.
85. **Coordination and Cross-Sectoral Mechanisms** – The national assessment reports of some countries highlighted problems with regard to coordination mechanisms, especially on cross-sectoral issues. Some countries propose that new mechanisms should be developed to handle issues by appointing dedicated and full-time sectoral focal points at national and regional levels. The focal points' roles should not only focus on coordination, but also enforce and follow up the Blueprint implementation. They also recommend that all projects in their respective countries, including cross-sectoral activities, should be identified and provided with the needed technical expertise and coordination. However, some countries suggest making better use of existing mechanisms, that there should be better utilization of ASEAN-level and international-level talent and resources. The need for a funding mechanism in support of cross-sectoral cooperation was also emphasized in some countries' reports.
86. **Enhancement of ASCC Monitoring Tools** – An accurate and reliable data bank on all ASCC regional and national levels should be developed and maintained, and reinforced with effective monitoring and evaluation, using a common and easy-to-use set of templates. The indicators and statistics should be relevant to the needs of the member states and the system should warrant the long-term impact and sustainability of undertaken initiatives. There are recommendations that existing monitoring tools should be improved or adjusted. Some countries state that scorecard

indicators should be revisited at the regional level. Scorecard indicators for some characteristics need to be modified. Measurable goals in phases should be developed and communicated to ASEAN members. Moreover, to develop good policies and adopt effective mechanisms, quality indicators with realistic targets should be used. With these indicators, key projects can be identified and prioritised at the national level, and government and regional administration can be more efficient and effective. Also, information sharing and best practices can be improved and disseminated via websites or similar media.

87. **Review of the ASCC Blueprint and its Action Lines** – Many national assessment reports agreed that the ASCC Blueprint should be reviewed in order to achieve practical implementation. Similar to the United Nation’s Millennium Development Goals, ASEAN should develop long-term, high-profile development goals which are targeted and accountable. All the goals developed should be measurable with specific actions to be done, the person responsible, and the time to complete. It is stated that the ASCC Blueprint is fragmented and has too many action lines which should be adjusted and combined. There are a number of overlapping action lines, which potentially cause the duplication of work and budget. All action lines should be revisited and systematically classified into domestic and regional tiers to ensure the focus and scope of implementation. The action lines at the regional level require tangible arrangements for regional collaboration and regional work structure. The scope of some action lines should be broad enough to ensure their responsiveness to fast-changing social factors, particularly action lines related to ICT and education as well as environmental and healthcare issues.

88. **Raising Awareness of the ASCC among Officials and the General Public** – The national assessment reports of some countries suggest that there should be provision for equipment and capacity enhancement for local authorities to raise awareness of the ASCC Blueprint among officials. For the general public in some countries, building ASCC awareness in the community should be through appropriate communication strategies. Information should be tailored for people at all levels of education and development. It must be understandable and accessible, and disseminated through different means and using multimedia. The media and education systems in some countries should cover the AEC, ASCC and APSC in unison.

89. **Special Consideration for CLMV Countries** – CLMV and some ASEAN-6 countries acknowledge the need to give special considerations for CLMV countries. The special considerations recommended are, for example, giving lower conditions or criteria for project evaluation so their projects are more easily funded or providing specific proposals that are appropriate to their national needs.

VII. OBSERVATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

A. Consolidation and Prioritisation

90. The March 2013 ASEC report on the Status of the ASCC Blueprint Implementation stated that 33 action lines, or 9.73% of the total of 339, fell under the category whose outcomes were not under the direct control of an ASCC sectoral body. These are action lines that have to be implemented by cross-sectoral or cross - pillar arrangements. This necessitates strong coordination and communication lines among the different sectoral bodies to ensure that action lines are implemented and the opportunity for cross-sectoral cooperation is optimised. In some instances, it could simply be an issue of getting information from one sector to another and documenting if the action line has been acted on.
91. There are also instances of overlaps and duplication in the action lines of various elements under the different characteristics. Some sectors have made efforts to re-cluster and build synergies in their programmes but some remain or are simply left hanging. The ASCC sectoral bodies should review their target action lines and do the necessary streamlining and adjustments e.g. re-clustering, modifying and even dropping action lines that are not a priority or relevant.
92. The list of Cross-Sectoral and Cross-Collaboration Action Lines is a good starting point for the review and planning for possible programmatic cooperation among many related sectors under the ASCC or with the other Community pillars. It is recommended that the cross-sectoral and programme-based approach be adopted as an operational policy in ASEAN, starting at the project development phase.
93. This urgent process of consolidation and prioritisation has to be done by all sectors in light of the need to fast track implementation of targets towards 2015. The SOCA is highly encouraged to oversee this process, guided by The principles on prioritisation and with the support from the CPR and the ASEC. The ASCC has to mandate and approve this process to ensure that resources and attention of the responsible actors in the ASCC Blueprint implementation are focused on priority and programmatic cooperation, especially in the run up to 2015.

B. Institutional Mechanisms

i. Governance

94. The general progress of ASCC Blueprint implementation can be attributed to the commitment and dedication of the ASEAN Leaders, the Community Council, SOCA, the sectoral chairs, bodies and associated entities, and the ASEAN Secretariat. The National MTR reports all indicated valuable contributions by the AMS towards their shared agenda and commitment in pursuit of the ASCC

goals. It is commendable that there is greater interest from both the CPR and SOCA to take on more active role in support of the implementation of the Blueprint. The sustained follow through of the ASCC Council on the progress of the Blueprint implementation also signaled the continuing commitment of the leaders in pushing the ASCC Blueprint implementation to be on track.

95. To sustain the progress and growing commitment to be on track, the ASCC Council, as the highest ASEAN body responsible for the ASCC, has to ensure that the operational leadership and structure of the Blueprint implementation is reviewed and strengthened to rally behind strong cooperation that will deliver more tangible gains and impacts by 2015 and beyond, and to ensure that priority programming cooperation (beyond action lines, and cross-sectoral/pillar in nature) are developed and financed immediately and strategically.
96. The MTR highlighted many areas for action, from filling the gaps to building on achievements thus far, both at the policy and operational levels. The SOCA and the Coordinating Conference on the ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community (SOCCOM) are encouraged to strengthen their respective coordination roles to look into priority areas for action as a result of the MTR. The High Level Task Force (HLTF) created to respond to the “ASEAN Challenge Report” to review the roles of various ASEAN entities should also look into the call towards providing the Blueprint implementation, the needed policy environment and operational structure towards 2015.
97. The sectoral bodies have equally important roles in the ASCC Blueprint implementation. The active involvement of the Chair and Vice-Chair in coordinating the effort of their respective sectoral bodies in implementing the Blueprint has to be strengthened. While taking up the Chairing role is a regional commitment and an opportunity for growth for the national office, the assumption to become a Chair comes with added responsibilities but, in some countries, not always with the needed technical support. It is recommended that sectoral body Chairpersons in some countries be provided adequate support given the fact that they have their respective national responsibilities and workload to ensure that they can fully function for the ASCC agenda.
98. The success of the ASCC agenda is anchored in the effectiveness of the Blueprint implementation at the national level. The role of the national SOCA as coordinating body of the ASCC is crucial and should be strengthened in countries where it is not adequately supported. The National assessment process coordinated by the SOCA in light of the MTR was well appreciated and regular interaction at national level is encouraged, especially in the run up to 2015. The national ASEAN Secretariat in some countries also needs to strengthen its role in supporting the ASCC Blueprint implementation in coordination with the regional ASEC and the CPR to effectively bridge collaboration among ASEAN actors. A stronger inter-agency coordination at the national level, in countries where it is needed, will also provide the SOCA

and ASCC Council representatives with comprehensive guidance and update information pertaining to the many sectoral issues under ASCC.

99. The ASEC is deemed by many as the central nerve of ASEAN, thus the importance of strengthening it to be able to deliver its full function. The ongoing strategic planning process at the ASCCD is an opportunity to institute changes in light of the challenges faced in the Blueprint implementation. ASEC should focus on facilitating and following up the ASCC Blueprint. It should play a role in broadening communication lines between the ASCC working groups in the ASEAN Community. National ASCC implementation groups, where necessary, could be established in AMS, and ASEC could play a key coordination and facilitation role between them. Within ASEC, it is important to strengthen the coordination between and among units (External Affairs, Corporate Affairs and related offices) that have direct impact on the ASCC Blueprint targets.

ii. Management and Operations

100. The huge demand to service meetings in ASEAN overloads the ASCCD staff. This results in very limited time for programmatic follow-through. There is a need to rationalise the staffing complement of ASCCD to harness human resource potentials, optimise performance and create a more conducive working arrangement.
101. ASEC can explore other means of mobilising additional human resources to complement its workforce. Regional project cooperation should always have built-in allocation to cover for an additional workforce if deemed necessary. This should supplement staffing needs to allow senior staff more time for strategic and programmatic actions or follow-through. Tapping from AUN scholars or related academic institutions could strengthen the ongoing internship programme. Other sub-regional mechanisms outside of ASEAN which have working relations with ASEAN e.g. Greater Mekong Sub-region (GMS) program can also be explored as potential extension of the secretariat for direct follow-through of sub-regional cooperation such as the IAI/ NDG programme.
102. The low level of intra-departmental dialogue and interaction resulting from overloaded staff does not augur well for a more programmatic and integrated work approach. As a working culture and imperative, ASEC is encouraged to incentivize collaborative practices by including this as part of the Key Performance Indicator (KPI) and Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) in ASEC. This will help build confidence and a stronger community starting at ASEC over time.

C. Resource Mobilisation

103. There should be efficient and effective financial resources mobilisation and budget allocation for ASCC Blueprint projects/activities. In the

immediate term, ASCC may consider setting up a reporting system for past expenditures for regional programmes while starting work on setting up a regional programme budgeting system consistent with the regional programme-specific guidelines based on ASEC's Programme Management Framework.

104. The resource mobilisation strategy will be enhanced through the following ways:

- Determine the extent of funding requirements to implement the ASCC Blueprint and the cross-cutting issues until 2015.
- Define the scope of priority cooperation and strengthen donor coordination mechanism. By the nature of its work, the ASCC receives a large part of development cooperation in ASEAN. The development community is committed to strengthen and sustain its relations through programmatic cooperation with ASEAN and its sectoral bodies for sectoral and cross-cutting issues. This continuing interest is also a result of the broad opportunities for cooperation that the ASCC Blueprint offered them, which provides ASEAN with the opportunity to define the scope of programme and project cooperation. Setting these broad programmatic considerations is often done through the Plans of Action (PoA) discussed, in the case of Dialogue Partners, under the ambit of ASEAN Dialogue Relations with them or, in the case of External Partners, under the ambit of existing memoranda of agreement or understanding between them and ASEAN. While the overall programmatic strategy has been agreed upon based on mutually - agreed priorities, with ASEAN centrality as the guide, ASEAN has to do more to propose strategic implementing programmes and projects that address its own priorities. In this way, appropriate prioritisation and diversification of funding is done across all sectors. The resource mobilisation strategy should be in line with key priority areas. This strategy will include the formulation of more strategic proposals to avail of funding that is presently within ASEAN and particular sectors.
 - o While there are informal mechanisms to exchange notes and lessons learned on development cooperation with Dialogue Partners and External Partners, ASEAN should strengthen its strategic role of donor coordination. An institutionalised donor coordination mechanism can be a venue for updating, sharing emerging issues and cooperation needs, general matching of needs and resources, and confidence building in general. The Dialogue Partners can be more effectively mobilised for technical support to complement current expertise internally
- Build capacity for resource mobilisation. With the vast opportunity for resource generation and development, ASEAN should build up its current workforce for resource mobilisation. The capacities of sectoral bodies to mobilise resources should be strengthened. At the

ASEC level, there is staff expertise but other competing demands constrain it from responding to all opportunities. The creation of a Project Management Unit (PMU) at ASEC could be considered as an operational strategy to meet the resource mobilisation gap. A PMU, with a strong regional perspective, can provide the technical support to sectoral bodies and AMS in terms of (1) actual project development/project proposal writing support; (2) training ASEC staff on project development/proposal writing; (3) mobilising expertise from external parties as needed (if internal expertise is not available); (4) supporting the overdue data base building of project cooperation in ASEAN to strengthen Knowledge Management; and (5) assisting to develop the monitoring system in ASEAN to effectively track progress of the Blueprint implementation and various funded regional cooperation programmes. The PMU will strengthen the accountability within ASEAN to all its stakeholders.

D. Programmatic Considerations

i. Results-Based Management (RBM)

105. ASEAN recognises the imperative of a results-based management approach as reflected by its effort to develop responsive implementation monitoring tools and a scorecard system that will allow for effective tracking of progress of the Blueprint implementation and the assessment of the corresponding outcomes and impact towards the achievement of targeted objectives and goals. The integration of an effective monitoring and evaluation system, however, is at a start-up stage that will need enhanced management competencies and data quality of the core system (implementation-focused monitoring system and ASCC Scorecard), ensuring that project management, knowledge management, public outreach, communications and advocacy continue to be strengthened and that efforts are made to integrate these into the community-building process. The RBM approach for ASEAN will have to be programmed for medium to long-term investment to strengthen existing systems that work, aligning planning processes and building human workforce capacity at the national and regional levels to support and carry out the RBM process.

ii. In relation to the Implementation-Focused Monitoring System

106. The system was able to track progress of implementation, but there is a need to expand to cover other elements such as cross-pillar issues, resources, number of participants and other relevant challenges. Guidelines should be developed to help understand the system and utilize the tool. It is recommended that familiarisation sessions be conducted as needed for potential users. There should be frequent feedback on how to go about completing the required information to obtain quality control, focusing on completed activities, and not proposed ones. A good example is how to

document projects that have already been completed to show progress in the ASCC Blueprint implementation.

iii. In relation to the Scorecard System

107. Progress has been made in tabulating the indicators for the ASCC Scorecard. However, data gaps across sectors and countries are challenging. It is recognised that the ASCC Scorecard is a work-in-progress. As such, the indicators demonstrate the progress in the achievement of ASCC goals and objectives from the contribution of efforts through regional cooperation programmes/projects and other development interventions. Given the constraints, it is recommended that the relevant indicators that are available for the baseline year and mid-term from other international sources, not just from AMS, be piloted for characteristics such as environmental sustainability and social welfare development and protection. These would determine progress in the achievement of ASCC goals and objectives from the contribution of efforts through regional cooperation.

iv. In relation to Knowledge Management (KM)

108. The importance of a KM system in ASEAN as an organisation need not be overemphasised. The ASCC Department can pilot it for selected or priority regional cooperation or by sector and within its core administration. The preferred or suggested mode of cross-sector and cross-pillar approach in the coming years will significantly benefit if ASEAN is able to generate more value to its intellectual and knowledge-based assets. The ASEC should be calibrated to take on this function and build its capacity (staff and information management systems) for more effective processing of data and information generated from various sectoral and programmatic cooperation in aid of policy-making, programming, and resource generation and development.

v. In relation to Project and Programme Management

109. There is key programmatic cooperation under the ASCC Blueprint such as, among others, those implemented with Dialogue and Development Partners and External Partners. The existing cooperation offers ASEAN an opportunity to develop more programmatic approaches in pursuing sectoral plans under the Blueprint. The whole cycle of project formulation and development, implementation and monitoring offers ASEAN, through the sectoral bodies and ASEC, actual learning ground for capacity building on project/programme management. There should be a purposive action to distil lessons and capitalize on tested project management systems and tools needed to gear up ASEAN in meeting the growing opportunities for programmatic cooperation with various partners.

vi. In relation to Multi-Sectoral and Multi-Stakeholder Cooperation

110. Interesting models of coordination are already being pursued in ASEAN, where cross-pillar and cross-sectoral mechanisms are evolving and where partnerships with other relevant stakeholders are becoming an important operational strategy. This is an affirmative response to the recommendation made during the VAP formal review (See report: The 2nd Formal Review of the Implementation of the Vientiane Action Programme (VAP) December 2006-December 2008) to pursue multi-sectoral approaches to cooperation activities proven to be more cost-effective and efficient in the long term as the outputs tend to result in more tangible and impactful outcomes. ASEAN Dialogue and External Partners, during the MTR interaction, have expressed more interest in pursuing a more programme-based approach in their cooperation with ASEAN. There is no one-size-fits-all approach in pursuing new partnerships. It is important to ensure that there is an enabling environment that will allow for creative and innovative approaches, coupled with strong accountability. To sustain and mainstream this as an operational method in ASEAN, there should be clarity on the roles and responsibility of concerned ASEAN actors.

E. Partnerships and Engagements

111. The ASEAN Foundation (AF) has supported several cooperation efforts in the region that are contributory to the ASCC agenda, especially with respect to building the ASEAN identity. However, there are observable overlaps due to insufficient interaction between ASEC and the AF. The AF can collaborate and support the prioritisation of action lines and elements, particularly in promoting greater awareness of ASEAN identity and people-to-people exchanges. This will help to facilitate programmatic cooperation and to bring resource mobilisation dividends.

112. The Blueprint promotes Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) with the growing role of private business groups. Regional economic growth offers an opportunity to engage the private sector under the CSR framework. Noteworthy is the formation of the ASEAN CSR Network which was founded with the support of the ASEAN Foundation.

113. The Blueprint takes note of the significant contribution of the CSOs in building ASEAN identity. On a positive note, many successful multi-stakeholder models in ASEAN have included CSOs as active supporters in mobilising resources including technical expertise, grounded perspectives and wide social capital spans across the region with a history of strong relations with grassroots communities. However, the majority of CSO participation in ASEAN appears confined to the confidence-building level and one-off activities. The CPR is encouraged to help stimulate and provide guidance to the sectoral bodies on the engagement of ASEAN-affiliated NGOs and other relevant CSOs in the ASEAN community-building process.

F. Communications Strategy

114. In lieu of an ASEAN Community-wide strategy and communication plan, ASEAN Member States may direct their efforts to the implementation of National Communication Plans. ASEAN should expedite the release of the ASEAN-community wide communication strategy/plan. ASEAN Community building requires effective communication with its key stakeholders and getting their commitment to share the task of reaching out to the last mile. The national and regional communication strategies, once operational, have to be in sync to create wider impact. The unevenness of information about ASEAN at the national and regional level, which tends to lay emphasis on official events and processes, needs to be addressed to create a deeper understanding and a more holistic view of ASEAN. Management of information systems (MIS) at the ASEC level requires investment in appropriate MIS infrastructure and staff capacity. This is also linked to the need for a practical but effective Knowledge Management system in ASEAN.

VIII. PRIORITY RECOMMENDATIONS

115. **Revision of the ASCC Blueprint and its Action Lines:** Follow-up reviews of the ASCC Blueprint should give emphasis to practical implementation approaches and strategies. Given the need to prioritise and focus resources toward 2015, a process of review and re-targeting should be undertaken at the sectoral level with a view to re-clustering overlapping targets and strengthening cross-sectoral, cross-pillar cooperation. The resulting prioritisation in action lines and elements should aim at encouraging programmatic cooperation and greater accountability. Best practices need to be identified in the new generation of programme cooperation. It is also important to ascertain the alignment of regional with national priorities to ensure integration and better stakeholder involvement.
116. **Enhancement of ASCC Monitoring Tools.** ASEAN should improve its current monitoring tools and systems. A prerequisite is the establishment of a database for ASCC on regional and national programmes and actions. The indicators and statistics compiled and maintained should be relevant to the needs of the member states and capture lessons learned and sustainable initiatives.
117. **Knowledge Management System.** ASEC should be calibrated to take on this function and build its capacity (staff and information management systems) for more effective management of knowledge products and services generated by sectoral bodies and through programmatic cooperation. A comprehensive knowledge management system would also aid in policy making, programming, and resource generation and development. The ASCC Department can pilot the KM system for select or priority regional cooperation

and sectors. The return on investment for ASEAN will be high if it is able to generate more value to its intellectual and knowledge-based assets. The AMS will benefit from the sharing of information and best practices available in the region.

118. **Coordination and Cross-Sectoral Mechanisms.** At the regional and national levels in some countries, there is a need to create a coordination mechanism or a network of focal points, especially for cross-sectoral issues and across countries. There is a need to establish a conceptual framework for ASCC coordination and a cross-sectoral mechanism that outlines the institutional architecture, governance mechanism, business processes and resource requirements.
119. **Resource Mobilisation.** There should be efficient and effective financial resources mobilisation and budget allocation for ASCC Blueprint projects/activities at the regional and national levels in some countries. The creation of a Project Management Unit (PMU) at ASEC could be considered as an operational strategy to strengthen ASEAN's resource mobilisation.
120. **Multi-Sectoral and Multi-Stakeholder Approaches.** There is no one-size-fits-all approach in pursuing new partnerships. It is important to ensure that there is an enabling environment that will allow for creative and innovative approaches to be nurtured. A broadening of the multi-sectoral and multi-stakeholder base in a partnership-building strategy should also emphasize adequate control management and an accountability framework that clarifies roles and responsibilities.
121. **Communication Strategy.** The ASEAN Community-wide strategy and communication plan is under finalization. The value of communication lies in its power to raise public awareness of the various ASCC Blueprint goals. It is recommended to expedite the release of the ASEAN-community wide communication strategy/plan.
122. **Special Consideration for CLMV Countries.** CLMV and some ASEAN-6 countries acknowledge the need to continually support the CLMV countries. Special Assistance is recommended to support of project development to succeed more in resource mobilisation. The IAI framework should also be incorporated in such special considerations and assistance programmes as also envisaged in the ASCC Blueprint.
123. **Commitment to Implement Recommendations.** Most of the MTR recommendations have been raised in previous assessments and studies aimed to bring ASEAN closer to its one ASEAN Community goals (Ha Noi Plan of Action, Vientiane Plan of Actions assessments). A core group from the SOCA, sectoral body representatives, and ASEC could be created to prioritise action points and develop an MTR action plan.

IX. WAY FORWARD, BEYOND 2015

124. At the 22nd ASEAN Summit held on 24-25 April 2013 in Brunei Darussalam, the ASEAN Leaders made the following important pronouncements:

- a) We reiterate our commitment to narrowing the development gaps by implementing the IAI Work Plan II (2009-2015) and the ASEAN Roadmap towards realising the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) with special focus on achievable goals and possible scenarios and priorities beyond 2015. We encourage all relevant ASEAN sectoral bodies to continue working together in addressing cross-cutting issues of the MDGs. We also task the relevant Ministers to undertake a mid-term evaluation of the IAI Work Plan II in order to identify proper ways of moving forward in its second phase (2013-2015).
- b) Acknowledging the importance of the various ASEAN organs in helping ASEAN Member States to fully implement their commitments to realise the ASEAN Community, and to better prepare ASEAN to meet the challenges of the future, we note the establishment of a High-Level Task Force to review and make recommendations on ways to strengthen all ASEAN organs.
- c) Noting that ASEAN will face an increasingly complex geopolitical situation, the Leaders task the ASEAN Coordinating Council (ACC) to review ASEAN's processes and institutions in order to safeguard ASEAN centrality in the regional architecture, and provide recommendations by the 23rd ASEAN Summit.
- d) Recalling the Bali Declaration on ASEAN Community in a Global Community of Nations (Bali Concord III), recognising the target date to realise an ASEAN Community is fast approaching and the need to consider the next stages of ASEAN's integration efforts as well as how to continue strategically positioning ASEAN in the evolving regional architecture, we task the ASEAN Community Councils to initiate work on a post-2015 vision and we look forward to further discussions on this issue at the 23rd ASEAN Summit.

125. Encouraging the consolidation of gains and to maintain ASEAN's overall central position in the dynamic regional architecture, the ASEAN Leaders directed relevant ministers and senior officials to undertake structural reviews of the organisation and its organs and to formulate a post-2015 vision for the region's development addressing the MDGs as well as narrowing development gaps, among others. For its part, the ASCC Council may consider developing its post-2015 vision and plan of action to succeed the current Blueprint which ends in two years' time. The recommendations herein could serve as a potential guidepost for the deliberations of the ASCC Council and SOCA in mapping out its future vision, plans and strategies for

the ASCC. This will reinforce the requirement to put in place a more robust monitoring and evaluation system for keeping track of ASCC actions and activities' progress, in a more timely and effective manner.

126. The post-2015 scenario for the ASCC pillar would have to be closely linked to two main developments: namely the coming into being of the ASEAN Community and the post-2015 development agenda at the global level. For the former, the ASCC would need to position itself to sustain an environment that is a people-centered and socially responsible ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community in the midst of a more integrated ASEAN Economic Community, aiming towards a single market and production base for the region, along with projecting a more peaceful and stable ASEAN Political-Security Community with ASEAN centrality being maintained. The key operative words in this regard would then be, as reflected in the Cha-am Hua Hin Declaration on the Roadmap for the ASEAN Community (2009-2015), that all three pillars of the ASEAN Community are “closely intertwined and mutually reinforcing for the purpose of ensuring durable peace, stability and shared prosperity in the region.”

127. ASEAN has committed itself to the principles espoused in the Bali Concord III Declaration of 2011 whereby it would move towards forging ASEAN common positions on various issues in the global arena by 2022. In this connection, the ASCC would also have to gear itself up to fulfilling its role as the spearhead in the socio-cultural agenda by being more proactive and responsive to the evolving development priorities and issues facing the region, as well as the world. ASCC should therefore have to take a more active role in forging common positions on the relevant issues under its purview and articulating them more forcefully in various regional and global fora.

X. CONCLUDING COMMENTS

128. This Mid-Term Review of ASCC Blueprint implementation has demonstrated significant progress but implementation is now at a critical juncture. While many stipulated action lines are achieved or on track, it is important to closely monitor such ongoing action lines including those still under formulation to ensure that concerted and timely actions are taken. The MTR exercise has shed light on specific areas and presents a set of recommendations to address emerging and ongoing challenges. The findings and recommendations of the MTR can act as a barometer of the ASCC's good progress and where action is still lagging and how to address these accordingly. Altogether, the process—from the national to the regional level—has helped build confidence, infuse excitement and brought the ASCC community closer, and the momentum needs to be maintained and the pace increased.

129. It is hoped that the findings and recommendations in this MTR exercise informs and enhances the follow-up policy discussions in formulating targeted development programmes and the regional cooperation strategy of the planning framework for the post-2015 scenario.



ANNEXES

● ANNEXES

ANNEX 1: STORIES OF OUTSTANDING REGIONAL COOPERATION

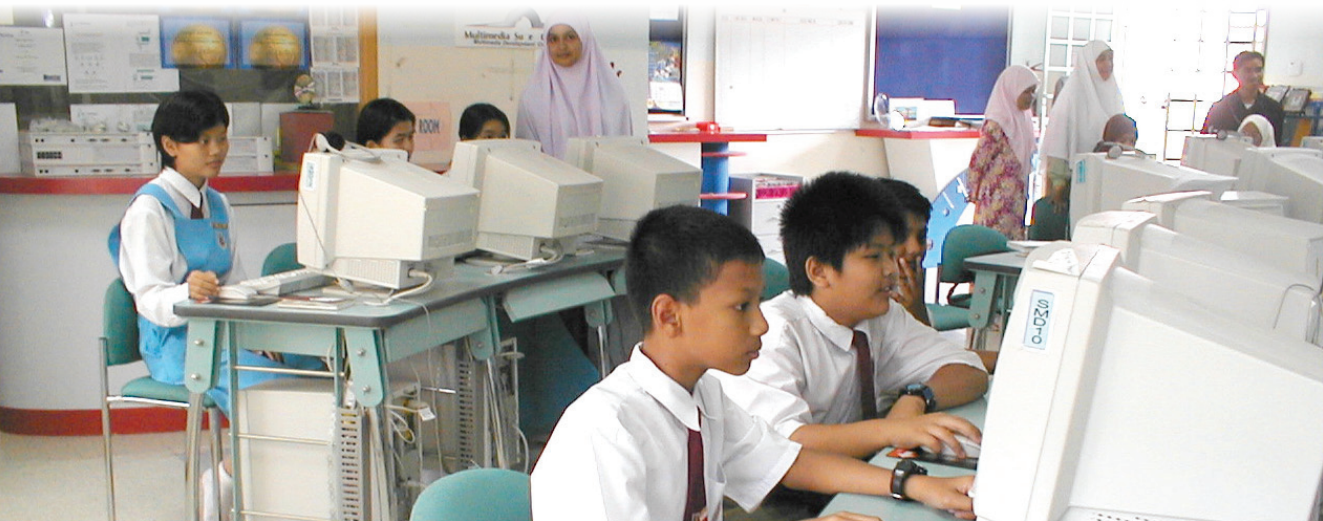
1.1 The ASEAN Credit Transfer System

The ASEAN Leaders' vision of establishing an ASEAN Community by 2020 focuses on a community that is people-centred and socially-responsible by forming a common identity and building a caring and sharing society where the well-being, livelihood and welfare of the peoples are enhanced. ASEAN will heighten awareness of ASEAN among youth through education and activities in order to build an ASEAN identity based on friendship and cooperation.

In 1992, at the 4th ASEAN Summit, the call for cooperation in the field of higher education and human resource development resulted in agreement on setting up the ASEAN University Network (AUN) in 1995 through the Charter of the AUN signed by the ASEAN Ministers responsible for higher education. In 2008, it was included in Annex 1 of the ASEAN Charter. Currently, 30 universities in ASEAN are members of AUN.

The AUN ASEAN Credit Transfer System (AUN-ACTS) is a mechanism that can translate the ASEAN Leaders' vision of building an ASEAN identity based on friendship and cooperation through education. Launched in 2011, it illustrates how "academic mobility" particularly through student exchanges can evolve from the easiest level of development cooperation in confidence building to harmonisation, regional integration and strengthening regional cooperation through the development of a regional implementation mechanism.

In order to facilitate students' mobility, ASEAN's diverse higher education systems need harmonized standards and mechanisms for easy and transparent quality assurance and credit transfer among institutions. The AUN-ACTS, through its credit transfer, is a mechanism of mobility that can increase and enhance people-to-people linkages through frequent exchanges by promoting partnership and bringing about future cooperation. It enables university students to apply for over 12,000 courses offered by AUN member universities and non-member



universities and undergo academic evaluation through a grading scheme that offers grading scales without conversion as well as transcripts.



While it is still early to assess impact, the launch of the AUN-ACTS offers students an easy way to apply, earn credit and be exposed to wider choices of courses. This will reinforce intellectual experiences and increase soft skills through opportunities to study abroad and networking with people in ASEAN. Since the introduction of the AUN-ACT, AUN has reported a number of non-AUN member universities expressing interest in participating.

According to the Executive Director of AUN, Associate Professor Dr Nantana Gajaseni, “one of ACTS’ ultimate goals, to be widely recognised as the regional credit transfer mechanism, will happen in the near future. This little step, with strong cooperation and commitment from AUN member universities, will form a competent system to move ACTS forward as a true credit transfer for ASEAN.”

Similar to the European ERASMUS programme, the ASEAN Leaders’ Vision can be realised through the AUN-ACTS as an ASEAN brand to promote an ASEAN identity.



1.2 The ASEAN Framework Instrument on the Protection and Promotion of the Rights of Migrant Workers



The ASEAN Declaration on the Protection and Promotion of the Rights of Migrant Workers was agreed to by ASEAN Leaders at the 12th ASEAN Summit in January 2007. It builds on commitments undertaken by ASEAN through its Vientiane Action Plan (2004 to 2010) and its vision of creating a caring and sharing community. The ASEAN Committee on the ASEAN Declaration on the Protection and Promotion of the Rights of Migrant Workers (ACMW) reporting to the Senior Labour Officials Meeting (SLOM) was established in July 2007. It has an additional task to oversee the development of the ASEAN Instrument on the Protection and Promotion of the Rights of Migrant Workers (ASEAN instrument).

To promote the ASEAN Community-building process, ASEAN has to be credited for soliciting inputs from diverse stakeholders in the development of the ASEAN instrument. ASEAN does this through the annual ASEAN Forum on Migrant Labour (AFML). The 4th AFML was convened as an implementation of the ASEAN Labour Ministers' Work Programme 2010-2015 and the ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community (ASCC) Blueprint which called for a regular ASEAN Forum on Migrant Labour as a platform for broad-based discussions on migrant labour issues.

The AFML is an open platform for review, discussion and exchange of good practices and ideas between governments, workers' and employers' organisations, and civil society stakeholders on key issues facing women and men migrant workers in ASEAN. There is strong interest shown by ASEAN civil society to substantively engage with representatives of their governments to create a system of protection for migrant worker rights that will be effective and sustained.



Each year, the AFML is hosted by the current chair of ASEAN with support from the ASEAN Secretariat and inputs from the International Labour Organisation (ILO), International Organisation of Migration (IOM), United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women) and the Task Force for ASEAN Migrant Workers (TF-AMW). Some countries choose to hold national preparatory meetings with tripartite partners and civil society.

The AFML is a positive development. Engaging CSOs brings valuable resources including technical expertise, grounded perspectives, funding and wide social capital that cuts across the region and anchored on strong relations with grassroots communities. For the ASEAN Community-building process to be successful and meaningful, people engagement and participation is required.

1.3 The ASEAN Agreement on Disaster Management and Emergency Response (AADMER)



The ASEAN Agreement on Disaster Management and Emergency Response (AADMER) was signed by ASEAN Foreign Ministers in July 2005 and came into force in December 2009 following ratification by all ASEAN Member States. AADMER is an agreement among ASEAN nations that aims to reduce losses from disasters by cooperating and helping each other on disaster management and emergency response. It was developed based on the experiences of ASEAN Member States in responding to the Indian Ocean Tsunami in December 2004. Empowered by ASEAN's strong commitment towards achieving a disaster-resilient ASEAN Community by 2015, AADMER espouses a proactive approach to disaster management and sets in place regional policies as well as operational and logistical mechanisms to enable ASEAN Member States to seek and extend assistance in times of disaster and to carry out collaborative undertakings on disaster monitoring, prevention, mitigation, preparedness, response, and recovery. AADMER is so far the only legally-binding regional instrument in the world that translates ASEAN's commitment to the implementation of Hyogo Framework for Action (HFA).

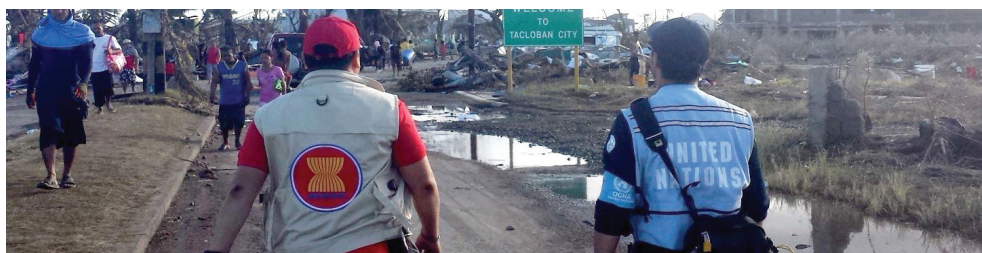
The ASEAN Committee on Disaster Management (ACDM) developed a five-year AADMER Work Programme for the period 2010-2015, and launched the Work Programme to partners at the first AADMER Partnership Conference in May 2010. This Work Programme covers four strategic components and six building blocks.



The strategic components are a) Risk Assessment; Early Warning and Monitoring; b) Prevention and Mitigation; c) Preparedness and Response; and d) Recovery. The building blocks form the foundation for the effective and sustainable implementation of the Work Programme from the regional to the national levels. These building blocks are a) Institutionalisation of AADMER; b) Partnership Strategies; c) Resource Mobilisation; d) Outreach and Mainstreaming; e) Training and Knowledge Management; and f) Information Management and Communication Technology. For Phase 1 (2010-2012), the Work Programme identified a total of 14 flagship projects, 12 of which were focused on the four strategic components and two for building blocks, specifically Outreach and Mainstreaming and Training and Knowledge Management. The Work Programme also incorporated activities in the other four building blocks as these are very crucial in pushing for the accomplishment of the flagship projects.

The ACDM provides oversight to the implementation of the Work Programme, while the Working Groups and the Lead Shepherd Countries are responsible for the implementation of the strategic components and the building blocks respectively. The ACDM also serves as the Governing Board for the ASEAN Coordinating Centre for Humanitarian Assistance (AHA Centre) while the ASEAN Secretariat provides policy, strategic and programme coordination support to the whole machinery, and assists in the Monitoring and Evaluation of the Work Programme. The ACDM reports directly to the Ministers in charge of Disaster Management, who also serve as the Conference of the Parties (COP) providing overall oversight and policy guidance on AADMER implementation. The Ministers also convene as the ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Disaster Management (AMMDM) to promote AADMER as the common





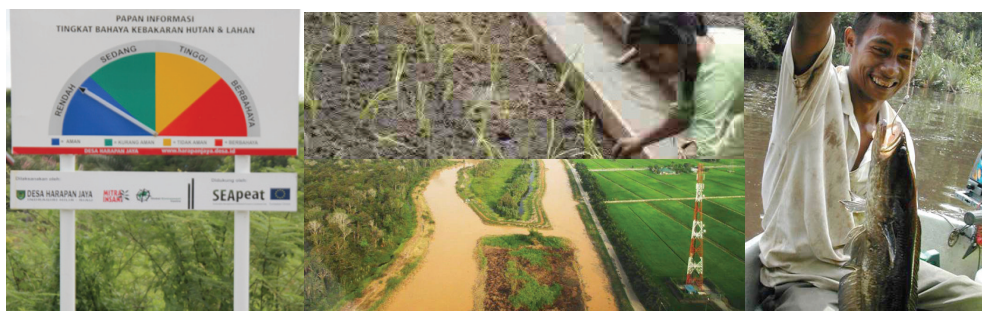
platform for disaster management with other relevant ASEAN’s ministerial bodies and mechanisms related to ASEAN.

Another milestone that has shaped the implementation of AADMER is ASEAN’s first collective response to a major disaster in 2008, i.e. The Cyclone Nargis in Myanmar. The two-year experience was well-documented in the ASEAN Book Series for Post-Nargis Response, and further institutionalised when the ACDM formulated the AADMER Work Programme in 2009 and established the AHA Centre in 2011. Based on the successful response to Cyclone Nargis, in March 2009, the ASEAN Leaders designated the Secretary-General of ASEAN as the ASEAN Humanitarian Assistance Coordinator for large-scale natural disasters and pandemics. ASEAN’s response to Cyclone Nargis has been considered as a major turning point as it has substantially changed the humanitarian landscape in the region.

Phase 2 (2013- 2015) activities under the AADMER Work Programme are expected to sustain the momentum and further strengthen disaster management capacities, mechanisms and systems that have been put in place in Phase 1. In May 2013, the ACDM came up with the AADMER Work Programme Phase 1 Accomplishment Report, which documents the outcomes of mid-term review and highlights accomplishments as well as gaps and challenges in implementing AADMER. For Phase 2 (2013-2015), the ACDM has identified 17 flagship projects, and these priorities will be presented to the partners and donor agencies at the 2nd AADMER Partnership Conference in November 2013 to mobilise more resources for the implementation of the Work Programme.

1.4. ASEAN Peatland Management Initiative and Strategy

The fifth action line under section D.2.1 Transboundary Haze Pollution in the ASCC Blueprint states that “Control and monitor land and forest fire occurrence in the





region and promote the sustainable management of peatlands in the ASEAN region to reduce the risk of fire and associated transboundary haze pollution through the implementation of the ASEAN Peatland Management Initiative (APMI) by the year 2015.”

Following the signing of the ASEAN Agreement on Transboundary Haze Pollution (AATHP) in mid-2002 and its entry into force in late 2003, the ASEAN Peatland Management Initiative (APMI) was initiated in early 2003 while the ASEAN Peatland Management Strategy (APMS) for 2006-2020 was adopted in late 2006.

These two schemes served as the spearhead for ASEAN to tackle the sustainable management of peatlands in the region. The aim is to prevent and minimize fires from these soils that would contribute to smoke haze, which in turn could become a transboundary problem for the region and possibly beyond.

The activities implemented over the years under the above-mentioned schemes were coordinated by the ASEAN Secretariat and received support from numerous external parties including the Global Environment Facility, European Union, International Fund for Agricultural Development, among others. The Global Environment Centre (GEC), an NGO based in Malaysia, has been the founding partner of ASEAN in the development of APMI and APMS and currently acts as the regional project executing agency of the ongoing ASEAN Peatland Forests Project.

Besides region-wide efforts, national as well as community/local level activities have also been carried out in most—if not all—ASEAN member countries and at some pilot project sites in Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines and Viet Nam. These have yielded substantive results, which provided useful input to policy makers as well as operational players alike.

A recent overall review of the two schemes revealed significant achievements in the implementation of various project activities and recommended the scaling up of certain items in the subsequent phases over the forthcoming years, building on what has been accomplished.

The APMI and APMS continue to serve as beneficial mechanisms in ASEAN's cooperation in addressing the transboundary smoke haze issue in the region. They are fairly well resourced in terms of funding, and also involve multiple stakeholders and a wide range of partners—external, regional, national and local and increasingly even in partnership with the private sector—acknowledging their participation as an important part of the solution to the problem.

ASEAN continues to implement concrete on-the-ground activities to address land and forest fires in the region, which includes implementation of the two aforementioned schemes to promote sustainable use of peatlands and alternative livelihoods, while preventing land and forest fires as well, given that peatlands are a major source of smoke haze in the region.

While challenges still remain in fully addressing the transboundary haze pollution problem, ASEAN's concerted cooperation efforts and sustained commitment in the area of sustainable peatland management over the past decade has produced satisfactory results which can be considered a significant milestone in the implementation of the AATHP.

ANNEX 2 : List of Contributors Supporting the ASCC Blueprint

Dialogue Partners	
1. Australia	6. Japan
2. Canada	7. New Zealand
3. China	8. Republic of Korea
4. European Union	9. Russian Federation
5. India	10. United States of America
Sectoral Dialogue Partner	
1. Pakistan	

Thematic and Sectoral Focus	Organisations
General	ASEAN Foundation
Education and Youth	SEAMEO UNESCO
Disaster Management	AADMER Partnership Group (APG) US Department of Agriculture Forest Service-USA Pacific Disaster Center (PDC)-Hawaii USA International Federation of Red Cross and Red Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, including IFRC, ICRC and the National Societies in Southeast Asia UNOCHA Japan International Cooperation Agency Asian Disaster Preparedness Centre (ADPC), Bangkok, Thailand Institute of Catastrophe Risk Management NTU-Singapore UNISDR ACDM-CSO Civil Partnership Framework (ACPF) Australia-Indonesia Facility for Disaster Reduction (AIFDR), Jakarta, Indonesia Asian Disaster Reduction Centre (ADRC), Kobe, Japan Centre for Excellence in Disaster Management and Humanitarian Assistance, US PACOM, USA Philippine Institute for Volcanology and Seismology (Phivolcs) Indonesian Agency for Meteorology, Climatology and Geophysic (BMKG) Global Earthquake Modeling (GEM) Foundation Geo Science Australia (GA) Asian Institute of Technology (AIT) King's College, London UK Natural Environment and Research Council (NERC) UK Collaborative on Development Sciences (UKCDS) Integrated Research on Disaster Reduction (IRDR) Beijing Normal University University of Sussex UN WFP UNDP UNESCAP UNHCR

Thematic and Sectoral Focus	Organisations
	World Bank Asian Development Bank (ADB) Siam Bank
Environment	Global Environmental Centre, GIZ, UNUIAS ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity (ACB) China-ASEAN Environmental Cooperation Centre (CAEC) Global Environment Facility (GEF) Through the International Found for Agriculture Development (IFAD) Global Environment Centre (GEC) Hanns Seidel Foundation (HSF) Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH ASEAN-Korea Environmental Cooperation Unit (AKECU) United Nations University-Institute of Advanced Studies (UNU-IAS) United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) Institute for Global Environmental Strategies (IGES) Kreditanstalt für Wiederaufbau (KfW) Germany Australian Marine Science and Technology (AMSAT) National Biodiversity Authority (NBA) of India Indian Institute of Science (IISc) of Bangalore, India 2008: 1 st ASEAN Environmentally Sustainable City (ESC) Award 2008 2009: 2.5 million Euro Clean Air for Smaller Cities Project (2009-2012) 2011: 2 nd ASEAN Environmentally Sustainable City (ESC) Award 2011
Health	Asia Europe Foundation (ASEF) Asia Pacific Council of AIDS Services Organisation (APCASO) Asia Pacific Network of People Living with HIV (APN+) Australian Aid for International Development (AusAID) Australia Marine Science and Technology Limited (AMSAT) EU through ARISE Project International Life Sciences Institute (ILSI) International HIV and AIDS Alliance
	Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) Japan International Cooperation System (JICS) Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) The Nippon Foundation Sanofi Pasteur Seven Sisters Southeast Tobacco Control Alliance (SEATCA) World Health Organisation (WHO) World Society for the Protection of Animals (WSPA) USAID PREPARE Project USP Promoting the Quality of Medicines Program (PQM) United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
Elderly	Help Age International
Disability	ASEAN Disability Forum Asia-Pacific Development Center on Disability (APCD)

Thematic and Sectoral Focus	Organisations
Gender, Women and Children (Rights)	UN Children's Fund East Asia and Pacific Regional Office UN Women Southeast Asia Women's Caucus on ASEAN Asia Acts Against Child Trafficking Human Rights Resource Centre for ASEAN Working Group for an ASEAN Human Rights Mechanism
Labor and Migrant Workers	International Labour Organisation (ILO) Task Force on ASEAN Migrant Workers ASEAN Services Employees Trade Union Council (ASETUC) ASEAN Confederation of Employers
MDG/Poverty/IAI	UNDP Asia Pacific Regional Centre AsiaDHRRA ADB

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Front Cover	Clock wise from left above : SOCA Singapore, SOCA Brunei Darussalam, Malaysia National Tourism Organisation, Lao PDR National Tourism Organisation, Liem Se Tjing (ASEAN Secretariat's Photo Competition Finalist), SOCA Myanmar, Philippines National Tourism Organisation.
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Executive Summary Cover	Clock wise from left above : Myanmar National Tourism Organisation, Mark Joseph Tajo Solis (ASEAN Secretariat's Photo Competition Finalist), Edwin Anthonio (ASEAN Secretaria's Photo Competition Finalist), Dave Andrie (ASEAN Secretaria's Photo Competition Finalist), Cambodia National Tourism Organisation, Arief Maulana (ASEAN Secretariat), Singapore National Tourism Organisation.
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Annexes Cover	Clock wise from left above : Arief Maulana (ASEAN Secretariat), Ministry of Health Viet Nam, Arief Maulana (ASEAN Secretariat), Dimas Adekhrisna (ASEAN Secretariat), Arief Maulana (ASEAN Secretariat), AHA Centre, Arief Maulana (ASEAN Secretariat), Arief Maulana (ASEAN Secretariat)
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Annex 1.2. The ASEAN Framework Instruments on the Protection and Promotion of the Rights of Migrant Workers	Ministry of Man Power and Transmigration, Indonesia (all photos)
Annex 1.3. The ASEAN Agreement on Disaster Management and Emergency Response	AHA Centre (all photos)
Annex 1.4: The ASEAN Peatland Management Initiative and Strategy	ASEAN Peatland Forest Project (all photos)
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