

The ASEAN Leaders adopted the Master Plan on ASEAN Connectivity (MPAC) 2025 at the 28th ASEAN Summit in September 2016 in Vientiane, Lao PDR, as the successor document to the MPAC 2010. The MPAC 2025 is a multi-year, cross-pillar, cross-sectoral, and project-centric initiative that serves as a comprehensive framework to link the region through physical, institutional, and people-to-people connectivity. With a Master Plan focusing on five strategic areas: sustainable infrastructure, digital innovation, seamless logistics, regulatory excellence, and people mobility, ASEAN Connectivity seeks to improve the way the people live, work, and travel. It underpins ASEAN in creating a more competitive, innovative, and resilient environment; promoting inclusive and equitable growth in the region; and connecting everyone in the region as one community.

In entering the next phase of regional integration, ASEAN must be ready with coordinated responses to the geostrategic shifts and the global uncertainties that are taking place. Additionally, the region must be prepared to seize the opportunities and address the challenges presented by the fourth industrial revolution. Last but not least the issue of sustainability, both social and environmental, must be at the core of ASEAN's work so the region could continue to enjoy lasting peace, security and prosperity.



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

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# ASEAN

## A Communities of Opportunitites for All



## ASEAN COMMUNITY



one vision  
 one identity  
 one community



## ASEAN COMMUNITY

### One Vision. One Identity. One Community.

The ASEAN Community 2015 is a community anchored on three community pillars: Political-Security Community, Economic Community, and Socio-Cultural Community. Launched in 2015, it encapsulates ASEAN's resilience and dynamism in a journey of nearly half a century, and how far and how well the ASEAN Member States have achieved in coming together as one community.

The ASEAN Community pursues the goal of ASEAN's founding fathers of improving the lives of Southeast Asia peoples through economic and cultural development, social progress, regional peace and security, collaboration, mutual assistance in training and research, improvement of living standards, promotion of Southeast Asian studies and cooperation with regional and international organisations. ASEAN recognises the importance of ensuring the safety of its citizens from challenges and threats such as climate change, pandemics, natural disasters and transnational crimes. It offers new opportunities to the region and the world for an atmosphere of peace and stability, of bigger, more open and rules-based market for business, of better health and education; and of sustainable development.

With the ASEAN Charter of 2008, ASEAN has built and strengthened its institutional frameworks towards more effectiveness, efficiency, better synergy and coordination, paving the way for a rules-based and comprehensive institutional infrastructure in accordance with the needs of regional integration and community building.

In realising the vision of peace and prosperity, ASEAN fosters harmonious inter-state relations through the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in Southeast Asia (TAC) acceded to by 27 external parties and with more expressing interest to accede. Recognising the benefits of having the South China Sea as a sea of peace, stability and prosperity, ASEAN has worked closely with China towards the full and effective implementation of the 2002 Declaration on the Conduct of Parties in the South China Sea (DOC). The adoption in 2017 of a Framework for the Code of Conduct in the South China Sea is a significant step towards the conclusion of the COC. There is also progress in the implementation of practical cooperation initiatives to enhance trust and confidence as well as addressing emerging environmental issues.

With a view of making Southeast Asia a region free from nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction, efforts are sustained to ensure effective implementation of the Southeast Asia Nuclear Weapon-Free Zone (SEANWFZ) treaty. The ASEAN Network of Regulatory Bodies on Atomic Energy (ASEANTOM) has strengthened its institutional capacity and cooperation with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) in an effort to keep ASEAN abreast in the area of nuclear safety, security and safeguards.

ASEAN has also reached significant milestones in countering transnational crime. These include the 2007 ASEAN Convention on Counter Terrorism (ACCT) and the 2015 ASEAN Convention Against Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children (ACTIP). Aside from national ratification of these legal instruments, ASEAN Member States' resolve to implement their commitments has been translated through exchange of best practices, information as well as capacity-building activities among law enforcement officers.

Defence and military cooperation has gained momentum with the establishment of the ASEAN Defence Ministers Meeting (ADMM) and the ADMM-Plus. The ADMM has cemented a strong foundation for intra-ASEAN defence cooperation and with external partners as well as enhanced military-to-military cooperation at the operational level. The ADMM-Plus likewise has expanded its priority areas, which now include maritime security, military medicine, counter terrorism, humanitarian assistance and disaster relief, peacekeeping operations, humanitarian mine action and cyber security. Beginning in 2018, the ADMM-Plus now convenes annually to enhance dialogue and cooperation among ASEAN and the Plus Countries through a platform that is led and driven by ASEAN.

Established in 2009, the ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights (AICHR) recorded progress in the promotion and protection of human rights. The ASEAN Human Rights Declaration (AHRD) of 2012 embodies the commitment of the Governments of the ASEAN Member States to safeguard human rights and fundamental freedoms of the peoples of ASEAN.

To support ASEAN community building efforts and its central role in regional cooperation mechanisms to promote peace, stability and prosperity, ASEAN continues to develop and forge friendly relations and mutually beneficial dialogue, cooperation and partnerships with Dialogue Partners, Sectoral Dialogue Partners, Development Partner as well as other external parties, including regional and international organisations.

The implementation of measures under the ASEAN Economic Community (AEC) provides ASEAN people with new opportunities through an open and integrated market where there are more product choices at competitive costs. Under the AEC, businesses can extend their market reach at reduced costs through simplified cross-border trading processes and improved investment climate. At the same time, ASEAN economic integration is pursued not only through internal integration but also integration to the global economy; the latter is anchored on forward-looking free trade and comprehensive economic partnership agreements and initiatives to enhance global value chain participation.

The AEC has also put in place frameworks and legal structures on competition, consumer protection and intellectual property as well as improved transportation and infrastructure networks, contributing to an enhanced environment for business. Last but not least, the AEC also strives to be a community that is inclusive and equitable, with focused efforts to facilitate and support the active and gainful participation of small and medium enterprises and newer ASEAN Member States in the economic community.



The ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community (ASCC), known as the “people pillar” of ASEAN, envisions an ASEAN Community that engages and benefits the people, and is inclusive, sustainable, resilient and dynamic. The ASCC has put efforts to lift the quality of life of ASEAN peoples through cooperative activities that are people-oriented, people-centred, environmentally friendly, and that foster inter-cultural understanding and mutual respect.

Work of the ASCC pillar has contributed to collectively accelerating socio-cultural growth and progress by:

- lowering the proportion of people living on less than \$1.25/ day--from 1 in 2 persons to 1 in 8 persons over the last two decades;
- reducing maternal mortality from 286 in 1990 to 197 in 2015 per 100,000 live births;
- reducing infant mortality from 57 in 1990 to 20 in 2015 per 1000 live births;
- reducing proportion of urban slum populations from 40% in 2000 to 31% in 2012;
- increasing life expectancy from 55.6 years in 1967 to 70.9 years in 2016;
- increasing net enrolment rate for primary school children from 83% in 1990 to 96% in 2017;
- increasing adult literacy rates from 74.5% of the population in 1980 to 94.9% in 2016;
- increasing tertiary education enrolment rate among 18-23 years old from 18.2% in 1990 to 36.1% in 2016;
- Increasing ASEAN labour force at an average annual growth of 2% since 2000 and lowering overall unemployment rate from 6.9% in 2005 to 4.1% in 2016;
- increasing proportion of seats held by women in parliaments from 12% in 2000 to 18.5% in 2012 and
- enlisting 38 ASEAN natural heritage parks and 24 UNESCO cultural heritage sites in the ASEAN region as of 2015.

ASCC pillar has also contributed to the strengthening of ASEAN identity with the 2nd phase of the ASEAN Communication Master Plan for 2018–2025 (ACMP II). The ACMP's theme, “ASEAN: A Community of Opportunities for All” will support ASEAN's efforts in implementing the three ASEAN Community Blueprints to communicate the character of ASEAN as “people-oriented and people-centred.”

The ASEAN Coordinating Centre for Humanitarian Assistance on disaster management (AHA Centre) is at the forefront of ASEAN's strategy to instil resilience and face its vulnerabilities through a systematised regional disaster risk management and climate change adaptation that is harmonised with national and local policies and laws. It embodies the “One ASEAN, One Response” declaration by harnessing the individual and collective strengths of different sectors and stakeholders in ASEAN to effectively respond to disasters inside and outside the region.

ASEAN Connectivity aims to support integration and community building efforts by strengthening the foundational support needed to achieve the goals of political-security, economic, and socio-cultural pillars of the ASEAN Community.