

FACT SHEET

ASEAN SOCIO-CULTURAL COMMUNITY (ASCC)



one vision
one identity
one community

The ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community (ASCC) envisions a community where people enjoy the benefits of being part of ASEAN. At the heart of ASCC is the commitment to lift the quality of life of its peoples through cooperative activities that are people-oriented and people-centred. The ASCC aims to collectively deliver opportunities and fully realise human development in a sustainable way. The ASCC also fosters ASEAN identity through intercultural understanding and mutual respect, and prepares the ASEAN Community to face new and emerging challenges in the future.

The ASCC adopted landmark policy documents and implemented projects and activities to ensure that ASEAN remains, responsive and resilient relevant while continuing to bring equal opportunities and tangible benefits for all its peoples.

ASEAN has pushed to improve the youths' competitiveness and productivity by imbuing them with 21st century skills, supporting higher education mobility, and by enhancing the role of business and industry in modernising technical and vocational education and training (TVET) systems. Almost 500 ASEAN students enjoyed the opportunity to study at higher education through the European Union Support to Higher Education in the ASEAN Region (EU SHARE). Moreover, a working group was also established to implement the ASEAN Declaration on Strengthening Education for Out-of-School Children and Youth (OOSCY) that works on pathways for lifelong learning, accreditation and equivalencies, and skill development. The ASEAN-UNICEF Regional Conference on 21st Century Skills and Youth Participation provided a strategic engagement platform to prepare young people for the rapid transformations brought on by the advent of technology, digitisation, urbanisation, and climate change.

On labour, policy directions were adopted to help ASEAN navigate the evolving challenges in the workplace and move toward sustainable development. The ASEAN Declaration on Promoting Green Jobs for Equity and Inclusive Growth of ASEAN Community (2018) called for a better understanding of the impact of green jobs and green skills on creating environmentally and socially sustainable economies for job creation. The ASEAN Labour Ministers' Statement on the Future of Work: Embracing Technology for Inclusive and Sustainable Work, signed in April 2019, laid an inclusive framework to prepare the workforce for the future. Separately, the 12th ASEAN Skills Competition was convened in September 2018 in Bangkok, Thailand, showcasing the excellence of young people in 26 skills areas and inspiring TVET institutes to make better progress in meeting global standards.

Healthy lifestyle through physical activities for the people in the region is also promoted, among others by conducting a region-wide ASEAN Car-Free Day, to contribute to the prevention and control of non-communicable disease (NCD). The AMS are also working together to establish the ASEAN baseline information on the physical wellbeing of the ASEAN Community. Various multi-sectoral and multi-stakeholder plans of actions are developed and finalised to implement ASEAN's political commitments to combat anti-microbial resistance and end all forms of malnutrition.

Environmental issues remain an important priority. On marine debris pollution, the Bangkok Declaration on Combating Marine Debris in ASEAN Region and the ASEAN Framework of Action on Marine Debris as the outcomes of the ASEAN Special Ministerial Meeting on Marine Debris were adopted and noted respectively by the 34th ASEAN Summit. A gap analysis on circular economy for plastics, which makes up the





majority of marine debris, was published this year to inform ASEAN's future direction in tackling the challenge. ASEAN continues to strengthen cooperation on climate change through the adoption of ASEAN Joint Statements on Climate Change; an ASEAN Climate Finance Strategy; an ASEAN State of Climate Change Report; and implementation of sustainable peatland management projects.

Drier and warmer conditions could lead to increases in hotspot activities and a higher risk of transboundary haze in the region and therefore the Roadmap on ASEAN Cooperation towards Transboundary Haze Pollution Control with Means of Implementation adopted in 2016 enables ASEAN to continue the joint efforts to prevent, monitor, and mitigate land and forest fires to achieve a haze-free ASEAN by 2020. The youth are also encouraged to be involved in caring for the environment through the ASEAN Youth Environment Forum (AYEF), the ASEAN Eco-schools Award, and the ASEAN Eco-champions Award programme. And as such, the ASEAN Guideline on Green Meetings was recently adopted as a reference for AMS in organizing ASEAN meetings in an environmentally-friendly manner.

On disaster management, ASEAN expanded its work by mainstreaming Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) into climate projection and urban planning to build climate resilient cities. The region also enhanced its disaster preparedness and response capacity notably through the establishment of additional two Disaster Emergency Logistics System for ASEAN (DELSA) satellite warehouses in Thailand and the Philippines, and continued the flagship programme of the ASEAN Safe Schools Initiative (ASSI) to strengthen school disaster management. In protecting economic and social gains, ASEAN developed the Disaster-Responsive Social Protection Guidelines, and intensified

efforts to address slow-onset disaster through undertaking an ASEAN-ESCAP joint study and convening a policy dialogue on strengthening drought management in the region.

On women's empowerment, ASEAN is using sports to promote ASEAN Community building and gender equality by prioritising the participation of women and girls. Ongoing efforts will ensure that women can reap the benefits of the digital economy, the Fourth Industrial Revolution (4IR) and other opportunities arising from closer integration within ASEAN.

ASEAN also commemorated the 30th anniversary of the Convention on the Rights of the Child through the release of "Children in ASEAN: 30 Years of the Convention on the Rights of the Child", a report that features achievements and actions for children's rights in the region. Other relevant issuances were the ASEAN Declaration on the Rights of Children in the Context of Migration, Declaration on the Protection of Children from all Forms of Online Exploitation and Abuse in ASEAN, and the Joint Statement on Reaffirmation of Commitment to Advancing The Rights of The Child in ASEAN.

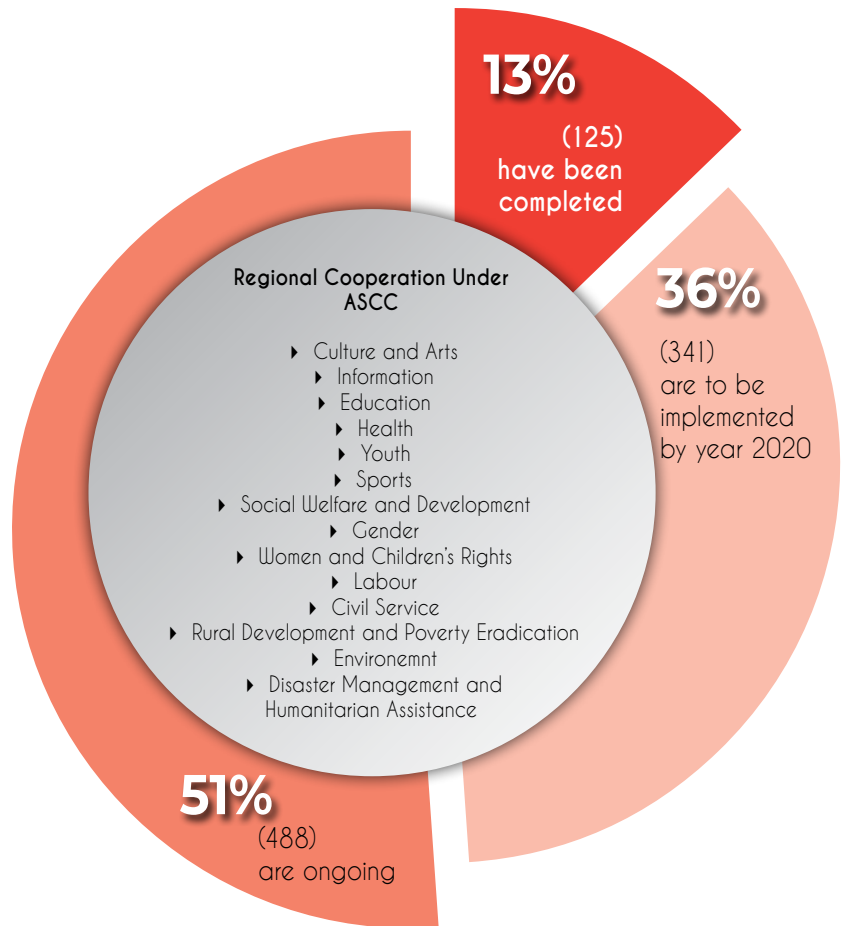
On public service and good governance, ASEAN established the ASEAN Network of Public Service Training Institute to enhance the competencies of civil servants and their capacity to respond to emerging challenges so that it continually develops a dynamic and citizen-centred ASEAN civil service for its peoples.

To celebrate the rich cultural diversity of ASEAN, 2019 is designated as the ASEAN Cultural Year (ACY) to promote culture's role in driving the creative cultural industries, cultural tourism, and sustainable development in the digital age. ACY has been celebrated through a number of initiatives including the Best of ASEAN

Performing Arts 2019, the ASEAN Cultural Roadshows in the region and beyond, the ASEAN Film Festival, as well as a series of ASEAN Cultural Troupe and Exhibitions.

To raise greater awareness of ASEAN developments, the ASEAN Communication Master Plan 2018-2025 (ACMP II) is launched in 2019 to guide ASEAN in more effectively communicating the message of inclusiveness through the overarching tagline of "ASEAN: A Community of Opportunities for All". Intensifying our efforts to nurture digitally responsible citizens in the region, ASEAN adopts a set of Core Values on Digital Literacy, as well as the Framework and Declaration to Minimise Harmful Effects of Fake News, with a number of initiatives including the #cyberREAD! Campaign at both regional and national levels to promote cyber wellness and responsible use of internet.

The ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community has developed an ASCC Blueprint 2025 Results-Based Monitoring System to aid the progressive implementation of the ASCC Blueprint 2025. Accordingly, 25 new activities were added to ASCC work plans in 2018.



*Status of 954 ASCC sectoral activities as of March 2019



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.

For inquiries, contact:
 The ASEAN Secretariat
 Community Relations Division (CRD)
 70A Jalan Sisingamangaraja
 Jakarta 12110, Indonesia
 Phone : (62 21) 724-3372, 726-2991
 Fax : (62 21) 739-8234, 724-3504
 E-mail : public@asean.org

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