



# ASEAN COMMUNITY



one vision  
one identity  
one community

# ASEAN Community

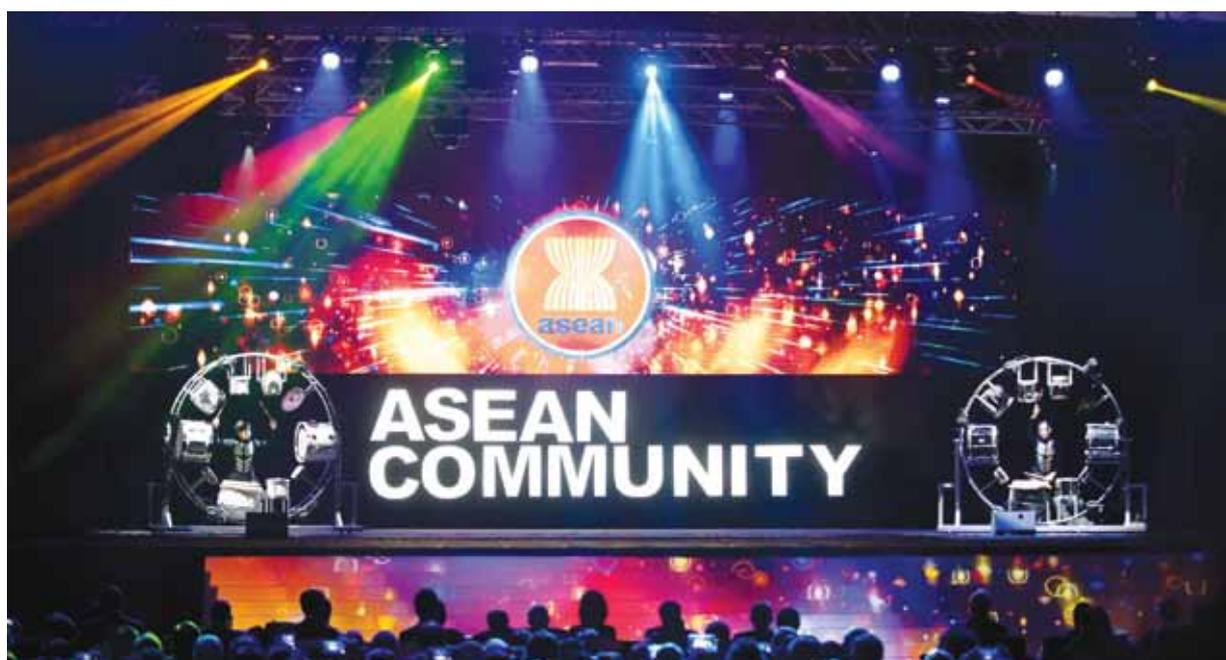
One Vision. One Identity. One Community.

The ASEAN Community 2015 is a community of opportunities under three community pillars: Political-Security Community, Economic Community, and Socio-Cultural Community. Its launch in 2015 is a historic milestone and a culmination of ASEAN's resilience and dynamism throughout a journey of nearly half a century, and signals to the world how far and how well the ASEAN Member States have achieved in coming together as one community.

The ASEAN Community ascertains that the goal of ASEAN's founding fathers of improving the lives of its people is reflected on the region's 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.

The organisation recognises the importance of ensuring the safety of its citizens from such threats as climate change, pandemics, natural disasters and transnational crimes, offering new opportunities to the region and the world of peace and stability, of bigger, more open and rules-based market for business, of better health and education; and of sustainable development.

Recognising the twin visions of peace and prosperity, ASEAN sustained peace in Southeast Asia by integrating harmonious inter-state relations through the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in Southeast Asia (TAC) for ASEAN Member States and more than 20 external parties, the Declaration on the 2002 Conduct of Parties in the South China Sea (DOC) and the Code of Conduct in the South China Sea (COC) that guide ASEAN and China to exercise self-restraint, refrain from the use of force, undertake practical maritime cooperation, and promote peaceful settlement of disputes in the South China Sea.



*Multi-media show announcing the establishment of ASEAN Community at the 27<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Summit.*

Southeast Asia is free of nuclear weapons and weapons of mass destruction through the Treaty on the Southeast Asia Nuclear Weapon-Free Zone (SEANWFZ) that also protects the region from environmental pollution and the hazards of radioactive and toxic waste materials. The ASEAN Convention on Counter Terrorism (ACCT) is ASEAN's regional cooperation framework to counter, prevent and suppress terrorism and deepen counter-terrorism cooperation.

Defence and military cooperation is gearing up with the establishment of the ASEAN Defence Ministers Meeting (ADMM) and the ADMM-Plus that provide Member States with counter-terrorism, maritime security and humanitarian assistance and disaster relief exercises, fostering understanding and improving capability and readiness.

The ASEAN Coordinating Centre for Humanitarian Assistance (AHA Centre) is at the forefront of ASEAN's strategy to instill 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.



*Proudly ASEAN.*

Already an international organisation by virtue of the ASEAN Charter in 2008, ASEAN has built and strengthened its institutional frameworks towards greater effectiveness, efficiency, better synergy and coordination, paving the way for a rules-based and comprehensive institutional infrastructure commensurate with the needs of regional integration and community building.



*Fertile land in the region is good for agriculture.*

Implementation of the ASEAN economic integration measures has led to the establishment of the ASEAN Economic Community (AEC), which provides ASEAN people with an open and integrated market where there are more product choices at competitive costs. The AEC initiatives have also supported businesses to explore markets and 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 improved 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 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. The ASCC's activities have resulted in a deepening of the sense of ASEAN identity, and collectively accelerating socio-cultural growth and progress by:

- lowering the proportion of people living on less than \$1.25/ day--from 1 in 2 to 1 in 8 persons over the last two decades;
- reducing maternal mortality per 100,000 live births from 371.2 in 1990 to 103.7 in 2012;
- reducing proportion of urban slum populations from 40% in 2000 to 31% in 2012 ;
- increasing net enrolment rate for primary school children from 92% in 1999 to 94% in 2012;
- increasing proportion of seats held by women in parliaments from 12% in 2000 to 18.5% in 2012 and
- enlisting 35 ASEAN natural heritage parks and 24 UNESCO cultural heritage sites in the ASEAN region as of 2015.



*Young people join hands in building the ASEAN Community.*

The ASEAN Inter-governmental Commission for Human Rights (AICHR), established in 2009 as the first sub-regional human rights institution in the Asia-Pacific, and the ASEAN Human Rights Declaration adopted in 2012 have established a framework for human rights cooperation in the region and continued to mainstream the issue of human rights in all three pillars of ASEAN.

Over the next ten years, the regional grouping will enter the next phase of consolidation, further integration and stronger cohesiveness as a Community. ASEAN is working towards a Community that is “politically cohesive, economically integrated, and socially responsible”. Moving forward, ASEAN Community will continue to provide opportunities to its citizens and ensure that improvements in their lives are sustained under a common vision and identity.

\*\*\*

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  
Public Outreach and Civil Society Division  
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](mailto:public@asean.org)

Catalogue-in-Publication Data

Fact Sheet – ASEAN Community  
Jakarta: ASEAN Secretariat, December 2015

352.1159  
1. ASEAN – People – Community  
2. Political-Security – Economic – Socio-Cultural

ISBN 978-602-0980-63-8

ASEAN: A Community of Opportunities

Photo credits: ASEAN Secretariat.

General information on ASEAN appears online at the ASEAN Website: [www.asean.org](http://www.asean.org)

The text of this publication may be freely quoted or reprinted, provided proper acknowledgement is given and a copy containing the reprinted material is sent to the Public Outreach and Civil Society Division of the ASEAN Secretariat, Jakarta

Copyright Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) 2015.  
All rights reserved

 ASEAN

 @ASEAN