

**FRAMEWORK AGREEMENT FOR COOPERATION  
BETWEEN  
THE ASSOCIATION OF SOUTHEAST ASIAN NATIONS  
AND  
THE UNITED NATIONS EDUCATIONAL, SCIENTIFIC AND  
CULTURAL ORGANISATION**

**I. INTRODUCTION**

The Association of Southeast Asian Nations (“ASEAN”) and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (“UNESCO”), hereinafter will be referred to individually as the “Party” and collectively as the “Parties”;

**INSPIRED** by the purposes and principles of ASEAN as enshrined in the ASEAN Charter which entered into force on 15 December 2008, and the goal of realising an ASEAN Community by 2015 to, among others lift the quality of life of its peoples through cooperative activities and promote human and social development as stipulated in the ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community (ASCC) Blueprint which was adopted as part of the Cha-am Hua Hin Declaration on the Roadmap for the ASEAN Community (2009-2015) at the 14<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Summit in 2009;

**NOTING** that, according to its Mission Statement, UNESCO as a specialised agency of the United Nations contributes to the building of peace, the eradication of poverty, sustainable development and intercultural dialogue through education, the sciences, culture, communication and information;

**NOTING** that UN Member States initiated steps towards advancing the development agenda beyond 2015 and that

UNESCO is working with governments, civil society and other partners to build on the momentum generated by the MDGs and carry on with an ambitious post-2015 development agenda;

**NOTING** that both Parties wish to update, reaffirm and strengthen ongoing cooperation in a programme-oriented manner in order to ensure that the cooperation is impactful and sustainable;

**NOTING** that the ASEAN UNESCO Committee (AUC) composed of ASEAN Member States of UNESCO was established in 2006 to facilitate cooperation between the two Organisations;

**CONVINCED** that an enhanced partnership between ASEAN and UNESCO will contribute to the attainment of the objectives of both Parties;

**DESIROUS** of coordinating their efforts in pursuing their common aims and for the purpose of defining the processes of cooperation between them;

**HEREBY REACH THE FOLLOWING UNDERSTANDINGS:**

## **II. AREAS OF COOPERATION**

1. This cooperation will focus on seven priority areas, namely: a) Education; b) Science, Technology and Innovation (STI); c) Disaster Risk Reduction d) Environmental Sustainability, e) Social and Human Sciences; f) Culture; g) Communication and Information.
2. An ASEAN-UNESCO Indicative Joint Programme of Action (2014-2018), as attached in the Annex, which

forms part of this Framework Agreement for Cooperation, developed in accordance with the ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community Blueprint, as well as subsequent documents will be reviewed periodically. The Joint Programme of Action includes the following areas of common interest and expertise:

- a) Education: improving the quality of education and enabling inclusive education in formal and non-formal systems; promoting internationally agreed education goals including education-related development goals; promotion of learning societies via integration of life-long learning in formal, non-formal and informal system; strengthening TVET/skills development; promoting peace education/learning to live together; and promoting education for sustainable development (ESD);
- b) Science, Technology and Innovation: STI Policy, Capacity Building and e-Learning on STI;
- c) Disaster Risk Reduction: disaster preparedness, mitigation and reduction of underlying risks of disasters;
- d) Environmental Sustainability: Climate change and its impacts, especially on women and men; sustainability of fresh water resources; quality living standards; and sustainable management of the ocean, natural resources and biodiversity;
- e) Social and Human Sciences: Promoting research-policy nexus for the development of inclusive public policies through the Management of Social Transformation (MOST) Programme;

- f) Culture: protecting, conserving and safeguarding heritage in all its manifestations, promoting the diversity of cultural expressions, and strengthening cultural industries;
  - g) Communication and Information: accessing information and knowledge enhancement; promoting dialogue fora and public awareness activities and promoting the preservation of, and the access to World Documentary Heritage of Memory of the World Programme (MOW); and
  - h) Other areas mutually agreed upon by both Parties.
3. In the various areas of cooperation, special focus will be put on young women and men and on their role in society, notably by supporting policy formulation and review with the participation of youth, and fostering capacity development for the transition to adulthood.
  4. ASEAN and UNESCO will pursue the broadest possible scope of cooperation encompassing the full range of activities and priorities common to both Parties by strengthening institutional linkages and by responding to the challenges of the millennium era notably, the attainment of the Internationally Agreed Development Goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, EFA, and narrowing of development gaps as well as addressing the impacts of climate change. The cooperation will also respond to the challenges addressed under the emerging Post-2015 Development Agenda.

### **III. MODALITIES OF COOPERATION AND COORDINATION**

5. The Parties agree to designate focal points for the implementation of this Framework Agreement for

Cooperation as follows:

- a) For ASEAN: Deputy Secretary-General for ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community (ASCC), the ASEAN Secretariat;
  - b) For UNESCO: Director of the UNESCO Office, Jakarta.
6. The focal points will be responsible for establishing effective communication and liaison between the Parties and facilitating, monitoring and reviewing the implementation of this Framework Agreement for Cooperation.
  7. ASEAN and UNESCO will cooperate with each other through their appropriate organs and enter into consultations as and when necessary, to discuss specific forms of joint actions, for the implementation of this Framework Agreement for Cooperation.
  8. The AUC will serve as an additional body with which UNESCO will consult regularly and update on the progress of the programmes adopted.
  9. Pursuant to the Indicative Joint Programme of Action, projects and activities will be mutually decided and adopted by both Parties in accordance with their respective established procedures.
  10. The implementation of any specific activity, programme or project under the joint programme of action will be subject to the written agreement of both Parties in accordance with the respective established procedures.

#### **IV. PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION**

11. The programme planning and implementation will be reflected in the five year rolling joint programme of action for 2014-2018, which will be reviewed periodically and if necessary adjusted upon mutual agreement between ASEAN and UNESCO, taking into account the changing dynamics of the region and the global environment.
12. The overall direction and focus of the programme and its projects will be discussed during annual review meetings with participation from ASEAN Secretariat and UNESCO Secretariat and possibly other partners, if deemed necessary by both Parties.
13. Both ASEAN and UNESCO in accordance with their respective established procedures, may individually or jointly mobilise funds and resources to implement joint projects and activities from relevant international organisations in particular, regional financial institutions and the international donor community. The modalities of such fundraising will be determined by mutual written agreement between the Parties.
14. The joint projects and activities may be fully or partially funded from a single source or several sources.
15. Any funds made available to UNESCO and/or ASEAN by any funding source in connection with the present Framework Agreement for Cooperation will be used by UNESCO and/or ASEAN in accordance with their respective regulations, rules and procedures.

## **V. PROTECTION OF INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS AND CONFIDENTIALITY**

16. Neither Party shall use the name, acronym or official logo of the other Party, without the prior written approval of the other Party in accordance with its rules and regulations.
17. The intellectual property rights in respect of any technical development, products and services development, carried out:
  - (i) jointly by ASEAN and UNESCO or research results obtained through the joint activity effort of both Parties, shall be jointly owned by both Parties in accordance with the terms to be mutually agreed upon; and
  - (ii) solely and separately by one Party or the research results obtained through the sole and separate effort of one Party, shall be solely owned by the Party concerned. ASEAN and UNESCO shall not make statements to the media on behalf of each other unless otherwise agreed to in writing on a case-by-case basis. All publicity materials such as press releases and statements related to the Framework Agreement for Cooperation shall be jointly agreed and approved by each Party prior to their release to the media or the public.
18. Neither Party shall disclose or distribute any confidential information, document/data received or supplied to the other Party in the course of the implementation of this Framework Agreement for Cooperation or any other agreements entered into pursuant to this Framework Agreement for Cooperation, to any third party except to

the extent as authorised in writing to do so by the other Party.

19. ASEAN and UNESCO agree that the provisions of this section shall continue to be binding between the Parties notwithstanding the termination of this Framework Agreement for Cooperation.

## **VII. SETTLEMENT OF DISPUTE**

20. Any dispute between the Parties arising out of the interpretation, implementation and application of this Framework Agreement for Cooperation shall be settled amicably through consultation or negotiation between the Parties.

## **VIII. ENTRY INTO FORCE, DURATION AND REVIEW**

21. This Framework Agreement for Cooperation will be effective for a period of five years from the date of signature. Thereafter, it may be extended for further periods of five years, by mutual written consent between the Parties, based on a joint review and a new five-year Indicative Joint Programme of Action.
22. A joint review will be carried out in the fourth year of this Framework Agreement for Cooperation in view of discussions regarding a subsequent cycle of the Framework Agreement for Cooperation, and a new five-year Joint Programme of Action.
23. This Framework Agreement for Cooperation shall not create any legally binding obligation on part of any ASEAN Member State.



24. Any revision, amendment or modification of the Framework Agreement for Cooperation will be decided by mutual written consent of both Parties in accordance with their respective rules, regulations and procedures. Any revision, amendment or modification will not prejudice the completion of any ongoing programme/project previously agreed by both Parties under this Framework Agreement for Cooperation.
25. This Framework Agreement for Cooperation may be terminated at any time by either Party by giving the other Party six (6) months written notice. The termination of this Framework Agreement for Cooperation shall not prejudice the completion of any ongoing programme and project previously agreed by both Parties under this Framework Agreement for Cooperation.
26. This Framework Agreement for Cooperation supersedes and replaces the Agreement of Cooperation between the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), signed on 12 September 1998.

**In witness whereof**, the undersigned, being duly authorised thereto by their respective Parties, have signed this Framework Agreement for Cooperation.

Done at Paris, France, this Seventeenth Day of December in the Year Two Thousand and Thirteen in four original copies in the English Language.

For ASEAN:

For UNESCO:

**LE LUONG MINH**  
Secretary-General of ASEAN

**IRINA BOKOVA**  
Director-General of UNESCO

