ON TRACK TO ASEAN COMMUNITY 2015

ASEAN annual report 2012-2013

one vision
one identity
one community

ASEAN Annual Report 2012-2013

The ASEAN Secretariat
Jakarta

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Table of Contents

Foreword by the Secretary-General of ASEAN 1
21st and 22nd ASEAN Summits 2-3
ASEAN's Year in External Relations 4

ASEAN CROSS-COMMUNITIES 13

ASEAN Connectivity 15
ASEAN Connectivity Coordinating Committee ACCC) 16
ASEAN Coordinating Council (ACC) 17

ASEAN SECRETARIAT'S OUTREACH ACTIVITIES 19

ASEAN Secretariat's Outreach Activities 21

ASEAN POLITICAL-SECURITY COMMUNITY (APSC) 23

Introduction of ASEAN Political-Security Community (APSC) 25
ASEAN Political-Security Community (APSC) Council 27
ASEAN Foreign Ministers Meeting (AMM) 27
Commission on the Southeast Asia Nuclear Weapon-Free Zone (SEANWFZ Commission) 28
ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting (ADMM) 28
ASEAN Law Ministers' Meeting (ALAWMM) 29
ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Transnational Crime (AMMTC) 30
ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) 31
Committee of Permanent Representatives to ASEAN (CPR) 32
ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights (AICHR) 32

ASEAN ECONOMIC COMMUNITY (AEC) 35

Introduction of ASEAN Economic Community (AEC) 37
ASEAN Economic Community (AEC) Council 39
ASEAN Economic Ministers (AEM) 39
ASEAN Free Trade Area (AFTA) Council 43
ASEAN Investment Area (AIA) Council 46
ASEAN Finance Ministers' Meeting (AFMM) 46
ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Agriculture and Forestry (AMAF) 47
ASEAN Ministers on Energy Meeting (AMEM) 48
ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Science and Technology (AMMST) 49
ASEAN Telecommunications and IT Ministers Meeting (TELMIN) 50
ASEAN Transport Ministers Meeting (ATM) 50
Meeting of ASEAN Tourism Ministers Meeting (M-ATM) 51
ASEAN Mekong Basin Development Cooperation (AMBDC) 52

ASEAN SOCIO-CULTURAL COMMUNITY (ASCC) 55

Introduction of ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community (ASCC) 57
ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community Council (ASCC) 59
ASEAN Ministers Responsible for Information (AMRI) 60
ASEAN Ministers Responsible for Culture and Arts (AMCA) 60
ASEAN Education Ministers Meeting (ASED) 61
ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Disaster Management (AMMDM) 62
ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on the Environment (AMME) 63
Conference of the Parties (COP) to the ASEAN Agreement on Transboundary Haze Pollution 64
ASEAN Health Ministers Meeting (AHMM) 64
ASEAN Labour Ministers Meeting (ALMM) 65
ASEAN Ministers Meeting on Rural Development and Poverty Eradication (AMRDPE) 66
ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Social Welfare and Development (AMMSWD) 67
ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Youth (AMMY) 67
ASEAN Conference on Civil Service Matters (ACCSM) 68
ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Women (AMMW) 69
ASEAN Commission on the Protection and Promotion of the Rights of Women and Children (ACWC) 69
ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Sports (AMMS) 70

OTHER INCLUSIONS 73

ASEAN Calendar of Meetings (June 2012-May 2013)..... 75

Foreword by the Secretary-General of ASEAN

As the clock ticks towards the ASEAN Community 2015, much of our efforts for the period under review has been focused on implementing regional commitments across all three pillars of the ASEAN Community.

In the political-security pillar, ASEAN bears witness to the rising profile and international recognition of the 1976 Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in Southeast Asia (TAC) as a key code of conduct governing inter-State relations in the region with more than 20 non-ASEAN countries across continents becoming High Contracting Parties as of now. The adoption of the ASEAN Human Rights Declaration in 2012 was an important milestone in ASEAN's mission to promote and protect human rights. As a key player in the maintenance of regional peace and stability through promoting dialogue and peaceful resolution of disputes and conflicts, ASEAN is intensifying efforts to ensure full and effective implementation of the Declaration on the Conduct of Parties in the South China Sea (DOC) and work towards the early conclusion of a Code of Conduct in the South China Sea (COC).

On the external relations front, ASEAN's dialogue and cooperation with its external parties keep developing and expanding, and ASEAN has been widely recognised as one of the most successful regional organisations.

In the economic pillar, ASEAN has implemented nearly 80% of the measures in the ASEAN Economic Community (AEC) Blueprint, with significant progress across sectors. A Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) of which negotiations have started among Member States of ASEAN and its six FTA Partners – Australia, China, India, Japan, Korea and New Zealand – and expected to conclude by 2015, will further cement ASEAN's central role as an emerging hub of economic integration in Asia Pacific.

There has also been significant progress on the socio-cultural Community pillar, which is essential for building a people-centred ASEAN. Key initiatives in the education sector and in the collective fight against communicable diseases such as malaria, and HIV and AIDS have been implemented. As ASEAN is striving to build a caring society, for the first time, an ASEAN stockpile of relief items was drawn up following recent natural disasters in the region, demonstrating the value of the ASEAN Coordinating Centre for Humanitarian Assistance (AHA Centre).

In terms of narrowing the development gap, the Initiative for ASEAN Integration (IAI) has continued to focus on effective capacity building programmes and technical assistance for Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar and Viet Nam. ASEAN is also continuing to implement the Master Plan on ASEAN Connectivity and working towards greater private sector support for infrastructure needs.

Against this backdrop of significant achievements, the ASEAN Leaders, at their 22nd ASEAN Summit in April 2013, agreed to enhance efforts towards the realisation of the ASEAN Community 2015 and also to start work on an ASEAN post-2015 vision.

Conscious of the need to accelerate efforts towards achieving the ASEAN Community in less than three years, it is critical that all stakeholders in ASEAN come together and join hands towards this endeavour.

LE LUONG MINH

The ASEAN Leaders and the Secretary-General of ASEAN at the 21st ASEAN Summit, Phnom Penh, Cambodia, 18 November 2012.

21st ASEAN Summit

Cambodia convened the 21st ASEAN Summit on 18 November 2012 in Phnom Penh with the theme "ASEAN: One Community, One Destiny". At the Summit, the Leaders engaged in extensive and fruitful discussions on the progress of the implementation of the ASEAN Charter and Roadmap for an ASEAN Community building and integration process.

The major outcome documents of the Summit included the ASEAN Human Rights Declaration (AHRD), the Phnom Penh Statement on the Adoption of the ASEAN Human Rights Declaration, the ASEAN Leaders' Statement on the Establishment of an ASEAN Regional Mine Action Centre (ARMAC), and the Bali Concord III Plan of Action (2013-2017).

Under the ambit of the ASEAN Political-Security Community, the Leaders also launched the ASEAN Institute for Peace and Reconciliation (AIPR) during the Opening Ceremony of the 21st ASEAN Summit. AIPR will be the premier ASEAN institution for research activities on peace, conflict management and conflict resolution.

In the economic area, the Leaders welcomed the implementation of the ASEAN Economic Community (AEC) Blueprint, which stood at 74.5% at the end of October 2012, an increase of 10% from the implementation rate reported during the 20th ASEAN Summit in April 2012. The Leaders also welcomed the launching of negotiations for the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) through the establishment of a Joint Declaration.

In the ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community (ASCC) pillar, the Leaders noted progress in the implementation of the ASCC Blueprint.

The Leaders expressed their appreciation for the important contributions made by H.E. Dr. Surin Pitsuwan in his capacity as the Secretary-General of ASEAN during his five-year term of office from 2008-2012 and they appointed H.E. Mr. Le Luong Minh from the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam as the Secretary-General of ASEAN for the period January 2013-December 2017.■

22nd ASEAN Summit

Brunei Darussalam assumed the ASEAN Chair in January 2013 with the theme "Our People, Our Future Together". It convened the first Summit of the year, the 22nd ASEAN Summit, on 24-25 April 2013 in Bandar Seri Begawan. During the Summit, the Leaders took part in extensive discussions on intensifying efforts to realise the ASEAN Community by 2015 and formulating a post-2015 ASEAN agenda. The Leaders also deliberated on enhancing ASEAN's central role in the evolving regional architecture. An exchange of views on regional and international issues of common interest and concern was also on the agenda of the Summit.

During the discussions, the ASEAN Leaders reviewed progress made in the implementation of the Roadmap for an ASEAN Community (2009-2005) across the three Community Pillars. They agreed to redouble their efforts to ensure the realisation of an ASEAN Community by 2015 that is politically cohesive, economically integrated, culturally harmonious and socially responsible.

The Leaders also welcomed the ongoing initiative of reviewing ASEAN processes and institutions by the ASEAN Coordinating Council (ACC) that will provide its recommendations to the 23rd ASEAN Summit. Along side this exercise, a High - Level Task Force will be established to review and recommend ways to strengthen the work of – and coordination among – all ASEAN organs.

This Summit has laid the foundation and provided strategic guidance for ASEAN to work towards an ASEAN post-2015 agenda and vision. To this end, the ASEAN Leaders agreed to task the ASEAN Community Councils with the work of building a post-2015 vision. The Leaders emphasised these ongoing processes towards the ASEAN Community 2015 and post-2015 will be undertaken in a holistic and forward-looking manner, with sustained commitment and continuity to be carried through the Chairmanship of Brunei Darussalam and onto the next Chairs, Myanmar and Malaysia.

To increase ASEAN awareness, the Leaders tasked the ASEAN Community Councils to place emphasis on communicating all their efforts to the relevant sectors, people and stakeholders, including through the use of various traditional, mainstream and new media platforms and mediums.■

The ASEAN Leaders at the 22nd ASEAN Summit in Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei Darussalam, 24-25 April 2013.

ASEAN's Year in External Relations

ASEAN-Australia

- ASEAN-Australia Dialogue Relations have been strengthened and enhanced over the past year.

- Australia will appoint a resident Ambassador to ASEAN in Jakarta, Indonesia, by the end of 2013. The appointment will contribute to the further enhancement of the ASEAN-Australia partnership. Australia is also in the process of establishing its Mission to ASEAN.

- Australia, together with New Zealand, is supporting ASEAN in the implementation of the ASEAN-Australia-New Zealand Free Trade Agreement (AANZFTA) through the Economic Cooperation Work Programme (ECWP). The ECWP will be implemented for five years upon the entry into force of the AANZFTA. Additionally, cooperation under the ASEAN-Australia-New Zealand Closer Economic Relations (CER) has been further strengthened with the successful convening of the first and second ASEAN-CER Integration Partnership Forum (IPF) in June 2011 and May 2012, respectively. The third IPF is expected to be held in July 2013 in Canberra, Australia.

- Australia is providing support to ASEAN to implement its economic integration and priorities in line with the ASEAN Economic Community (AEC) Blueprint through the ASEAN-Australia Development Cooperation Programme for the period 2008-2015 (AADCP II).

- In order to address the challenges that come with greater connectivity and integration, such as human trafficking, exploitation of migrant workers and child sex tourism, Australia is extending its support to ASEAN through the Asia Regional Trafficking in Persons project (ARTIP), Project Childhood, Tripartite Action to Protect Migrants from Labour Exploitation

(TRIANGLE) and MTV End Exploitation and Trafficking (MTV EXIT). Australia is working on the Australia-Asia Program to Combat Trafficking in Persons (AAPTIP), a successor programme to ARTIP, expected to be launched in 2013 for a period of five years.

- With the current Plan of Action to Implement the Joint Declaration on ASEAN-Australia Comprehensive Partnership set to expire in 2013, ASEAN and Australia are working on a new Plan of Action for the period 2014-2018.

ASEAN-Canada

- 2012 marked the 35th anniversary of the ASEAN-Canada Dialogue Relations. Both sides hosted a series of activities under the theme "35 Years of Partnership and Friendship" to commemorate the anniversary.

- The first AEM-Canada Consultations held on 31 August 2012 in Siem Reap, Cambodia, endorsed the 2012-2015 Work Plan to Implement ASEAN-Canada Joint Declaration on Trade and Investment which comprises the following three key areas: i) enhancing senior-level dialogue on trade and investment; ii) promoting increased trade and investment between ASEAN and Canada; and iii) increasing the private sector's involvement in promoting trade and investment.

- The ASEAN-Canada Enhanced Partnership Programme (ACEPP) was launched in April 2013. The objective of the ACEPP is to support the implementation of the Joint Declaration on ASEAN-Canada Enhanced Partnership and its Plan of Action. The ACEPP will be supported by a CAD10 million funding commitment announced by the Foreign Minister of Canada, H.E. John Baird, in July 2012.

ASEAN-China

- 2013 marks the 10th anniversary of ASEAN-China Strategic Partnership. ASEAN and China will undertake joint activities to celebrate the occassion.

- China established its Mission to ASEAN and appointed its first resident Ambassador to ASEAN in Jakarta, Indonesia, in 2012. This contributes to better coordination of cooperation to advance the ASEAN-China Strategic Partnership.

- The first meeting between the ASEAN Connectivity Coordinating Committee (ACCC) and the Chinese Working Committee on Connectivity was held in November 2012 at the ASEAN Secretariat in Jakarta, Indonesia, to discuss the implementation of the Master Plan on ASEAN Connectivity.

- Both ASEAN and China have reaffirmed that maintaining peace and stability in the South China Sea is very important for all countries in the region. In this regard, both sides reiterated the commitment to implement the Declaration on the Conduct of Parties in the South China Sea (DOC) in a full and effective manner and to strengthen cooperation on joint cooperative projects and activities under the DOC. This reaffirmation by both ASEAN and China is in line with the Joint Statement of the 15th ASEAN-China Summit on the 10th Anniversary of the Declaration on the Conduct of Parties in the South China Sea adopted in Cambodia in November 2012. In the period under review, both ASEAN and China have continued consultations to further maintain the momentum of dialogue to enhance trust and confidence and to work toward the adoption of a Code of Conduct in the South China Sea (COC) on the basis of consensus. Furthermore, they agreed to continue exchanging views regarding the way forward on this matter. Such commitment and affirmation provide the foundation to enhance the Strategic Partnership between ASEAN and China.

ASEAN-European Union

- The 19th ASEAN-EU Ministerial Meeting (AEMM) was convened on 26-27 April 2012 in Brunei Darussalam. The Ministers adopted the Bandar Seri Begawan Plan of Action to Strengthen the ASEAN-EU Enhanced Partnership (2013-2017).

- The EU acceded to the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in Southeast Asia (TAC) in July 2012 in Phnom Penh, Cambodia, marking an important milestone and signifying the more inclusive nature of the TAC and enabling accession by not only States

but also regional organisations whose members are sovereign states.

- To further improve two-way trade relations and investment between ASEAN and the EU, the 12th ASEAN Economic Ministers (AEM)-EU Trade Commissioner Consultation on 8 March 2013 in Ha Noi, Viet Nam, adopted the ASEAN-EU Trade and Investment Work Programme (2013-2014).

- ASEAN and the EU signed a Grant Contract for the ASEAN Regional Integration Support Programme (ARISE) for enhancing the operational capacity of the ASEAN Secretariat at the 20th ASEAN-EU Joint Cooperation Committee Meeting on 17 January 2013 at the ASEAN Secretariat.

- The 3rd ASEAN-EU Business Summit on 8-9 March 2013 was held on the sidelines of the 12th AEM-EU Trade Commissioner Consultation in Ha Noi, Viet Nam, to provide an opportunity for public-private sector dialogue, to generate more business opportunities and expand economic cooperation between the two regions.

ASEAN-India

- ASEAN and India celebrated the 20th anniversary of the ASEAN-India Dialogue Relations in 2012. A number of commemorative activities were carried out to mark the occasion. Among them, the convening of the ASEAN-India Commemorative Summit in New Delhi, India on 20-21 December 2012 at which Leaders declared the ASEAN-India Dialogue Relations be elevated to the level of Strategic Partnership. Leaders also adopted the ASEAN-India Vision Statement that emphasises the collective vision for the future of ASEAN-India Strategic Partnership.

- During this Commemorative Year, ASEAN and India also convened of a number of ministerial and high-level meetings:
  - ASEAN-India Tourism Ministers' Meeting, 12 January 2012 in Manado, Indonesia;
  - Meeting of Heads of Space Agencies of India and ASEAN, 19-20 June 2012 in Bangalore;
  - ASEAN-India Economic Ministers' Meeting, 30 August 2012 in Phnom Penh;
  - ASEAN-India Environment Ministers' Meeting, 6 September 1012 in New Delhi;
  - ASEAN-India Agriculture Ministers' Meeting, 17 October 2012 in New Delhi; and
  - ASEAN-India Energy Ministers' Meeting, 7 November 2012 in New Delhi.

- Furthermore, a number of ASEAN-India high-profile commemorative events were organised in 2012. They included:
  - Sailing Ship "Sudarshini" Expedition from India to ASEAN, retracing the historical route between India and the ASEAN Member States, September 2012-March 2013;
  - ASEAN-India Agri-Expo, 17-19 October 2012, New Delhi;
  - ASEAN-India Car Rally and related events, 26 November-17 December 2012; and
  - The 2nd ASEAN-India Business Fair (AIBF) and Business Conclave in New Dehli,18-20 December 2012.

- The ASEAN-India Free Trade Agreement in Goods (TIG) entered into force on 1 January 2010.

- To further promote tourism, an MoU on ASEAN-India Cooperation in Tourism was signed on 15 January 2012 in Manado, Indonesia.

- The ASEAN–India Eminent Persons Group (AIEPG) completed its work and submitted a set of recommendations on the future direction of ASEAN-India Dialogue Relations to the 10th ASEAN-India Summit on 19 November 2012 in Phnom Penh, Cambodia.

ASEAN-Japan

- At the 15th ASEAN-Japan Summit held on 19 November 2012, the Leaders of ASEAN and Japan took note of the good progress made in the implementation of the ASEAN-Japan Plan of Action 2011-2015. The Leaders appreciated the efforts to develop more concrete projects and activities to effectively implement the Plan of Action in a timely manner and to further support ASEAN integration, narrowing the development gap, as well as ASEAN Community building by 2015.

- ASEAN and Japan will celebrate the 40th anniversary of ASEAN-Japan Friendship and Cooperation throughout 2013. Both sides will host a series of commemorative activities. To kick-off anniversary celebrations, a reception was held on 18 January 2013 in Jakarta, Indonesia. An ASEAN-Japan Commemorative Summit will be held in Tokyo in December 2013.

- The ASEAN Economic Ministers (AEM) and the Minister for Economy, Trade and Industry (METI) of Japan endorsed the ASEAN-Japan 10-year Strategic Economic Cooperation Roadmap at their 18th Consultations held in August 2012 in Siem Reap, Cambodia. Under the Roadmap, cooperation in the areas of small and medium enterprise, industrial human resources development for professionals, intellectual property, low carbon growth including green technologies, chemical management and technologies for disaster resilience will be prioritised to promote sustainable, innovative and equitable growth.

- On youth exchanges, following the conclusion of the Japan East-Asia Network of Exchange for Students and Youths (JENESYS) in July 2012, Japan launched JENESYS 2.0 Programme in January 2013. Under the Programme, 30,000 young people from ASEAN and other Asian countries will visit Japan. Another Japan-initiated youth exchange programme, Kizuna (which means "bond"), was implemented from June 2012 to March 2013. The project involved more than 10,000 youth, approximately 3,500 from ASEAN Member States. The project was part of Japan's reconstruction plan, aimed at promoting a global understanding of Japan's revival in response to the Great East Japan Earthquake.

- ASEAN and Japan continue to strengthen cooperation on disaster management. At the 15th ASEAN-Japan Summit, ASEAN Leaders welcomed Japan's initiative of strengthening the network "from outer space to rural communities" under the Disaster Management Network for the ASEAN Region. ASEAN Leaders also appreciated Japan's firm support for the ASEAN Coordinating Centre for Humanitarian Assistance on disaster management by providing ICT equipment and expertise along with an emergency supplies stockpiling system.

ASEAN-Republic of Korea (ROK)

- There have been significant advances in the ASEAN-ROK relationship over the past 21 years, particularly since the elevation of ASEAN-ROK relations from comprehensive cooperation to a strategic partnership in 2010. Substantial progress has also been made in the implementation of the Joint Declaration on ASEAN-ROK Strategic Partnership for Peace and Prosperity and its Plan of Action for 2011-2015.

- The establishment of the Mission of the ROK to ASEAN and the appointment of the first resident Ambassador of the ROK to ASEAN in Jakarta, Indonesia in October 2012 will contribute to the further enhancement of the ASEAN-ROK strategic partnership.

- At the 15th ASEAN-ROK Summit on 19 November 2012 in Phnom Penh, Cambodia, Leaders renewed their commitment to achieve the target of increasing two-way trade volume to USD 150 billion by 2015.

- At the 9th ASEAN Economic Ministers-ROK Consultations in August 2012, Ministers noted the ASEAN-Korea Free Trade Agreement (AKFTA) Implementing Committee approved ten new project proposals since the 8th AEM-ROK Consultations in August 2011. The Ministers welcomed economic cooperation projects related to science and technology, renewable energy and ship-building. The AKFTA website and seminar kit were also launched at the Consultation. Ministers acknowledged the website and publication are useful information tools for businesses, especially SMEs.

- The Agreement between ASEAN and the ROK on Forest Cooperation, signed in November 2011, entered into force on 5 August 2012. The Agreement will contribute to the strengthening of forestry cooperation and enhance of the capacity of both sides to deal with challenges related to climate change in the region.

- The ROK reaffirmed its commitment to support the implementation of the Master Plan on ASEAN Connectivity. A connectivity workshop was convened in October 2012 in Singapore to raise the private

sector's awareness of the ASEAN-ROK connectivity as well as to seek their support for public-private partnership (PPP) projects across ASEAN.

ASEAN-New Zealand

- The long-standing ASEAN-New Zealand Dialogue Relations have been strengthened in areas of mutual interest and comparative advantage to both sides.

- Good progress has been made in the implementation of the Plan of Action to implement the Joint Declaration of the ASEAN-New Zealand Comprehensive Partnership for the period 2010-2015.

- New Zealand has been playing an important role in the area of preventive diplomacy under the ARF, and is co-chairing (with the Philippines) the ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting Plus (ADMM-Plus) Working Group on Peacekeeping Operations (EWG-PKO) for the period 2011-2013, under which many activities, including workshops and seminars, have taken place throughout 2012-2013. Cooperation between the two sides has also been intensified in the areas of combating transnational crime, counter-terrorism, maritime security, human trafficking and drug control.

- Trade and economic cooperation continues to be the highlight of ASEAN-New Zealand relations. New Zealand, together with Australia, has supported ASEAN in the implementation of the ASEAN-Australia-New Zealand Free Trade Agreement (AANZFTA) through the Economic Cooperation Work Programme (ECWP). The ECWP will be implemented for five years upon the entry into force of the AANZFTA. Furthermore, cooperation under the ASEAN-Australia-New Zealand Closer Economic Relations (CER) has been further strengthened with the successful convening of the first and second ASEAN-CER Integration Partnership Forum (IPF) in June 2011 and May 2012, respectively. The third IPF is expected to be held in July 2013 in Canberra, Australia.

- Development cooperation between ASEAN and New Zealand are focusing on the implementation of the following four flagship initiatives: Scholarship Programme, Disaster Management, Agricultural Diplomacy and the Young Business Leaders Initiative Programme.

- New Zealand has provided active support for ASEAN's efforts to narrow the development gap under the IAI framework. New Zealand has allocated NZD100 million for supporting Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar and Viet Nam for the period 2011-2015.

- ASEAN and New Zealand will celebrate the 40th Anniversary of the ASEAN-New Zealand Dialogue Relations in 2015.

ASEAN-Russia

- ASEAN Economic Ministers and their Russian counterpart endorsed the ASEAN-Russia Comprehensive Roadmap on Trade and Investment in October 2012. The overall objective of the Roadmap is to institutionalise a comprehensive dialogue mechanism on trade-related issues with a view to promoting cooperation in sectors of mutual interest to ASEAN and Russia, taking into account regional and global developments. The Roadmap will also aim to (i) develop a favourable environment for the promotion of trade and investment between ASEAN and Russia; (ii) encourage cooperation in areas of mutual interest related to trade in goods and services and investment in order to facilitate trade and investment flows, including the areas of technical regulations, standards and conformity assessment procedures, sanitary and phyto-sanitary measures, trade remedies, intellectual property and e-commerce, among others; and (iii) develop cooperation in other areas of mutual interest, including development of small and medium enterprises (SMEs), science and technology, energy, finance and banking, agriculture, healthcare, transportation, information and communication technologies, human resources development, tourism and the environment.

- The ASEAN Centre at the Moscow State University of International Relations (MGIMO) is actively promoting ASEAN-Russia cooperation and people-to-people interactions.

ASEAN-United States

- 2012 marked the 35th anniversary of the ASEAN-U.S. Dialogue Relations.

- Significant achievements have been made in different areas of cooperation under the ASEAN-U.S. Plan of Action to Implement the Joint Declaration on the ASEAN-U.S. Enhanced Partnership 2011-2015 for Enduring Peace and Prosperity.

- At the 4th ASEAN-U.S. Leaders' Meeting held on 19 November 2012 in Phnom Penh, Cambodia, Leaders welcomed the Final Report of the ASEAN-U.S. Eminent Persons Group and agreed the report could serve as a roadmap to implement the five-year ASEAN-U.S. Plan of Action (2011-2015). Leaders also agreed to institutionalise the ASEAN-U.S. Leaders' Meeting to an Annual Summit from 2013 onwards as a further step towards elevating the ASEAN-U.S. partnership to a strategic level.

- A number of programmes and initiatives to strengthen the ASEAN-U.S. ties in trade and investment, science and technology and youth exchange were launched at the 4th ASEAN-U.S. Leaders Meeting. They include: i) the ASEAN-U.S. Expanded Economic Engagement (E3) Initiative; ii) the ASEAN-U.S. Innovation in Science through Partners in Regional Engagement (INSPIRE); and iii) the ASEAN Youth Volunteers Programme.

- ASEAN and the U.S. held the first ASEAN-U.S. Business Forum in Siem Reap, Cambodia, in July 2012. The event brought together government and private sector representatives from across ASEAN and the U.S. to further explore opportunities for economic engagement.

- The ASEAN-U.S. Fulbright Visiting Scholar Initiative was launched in July 2012 to celebrate 35 years of partnership between ASEAN and the U.S and to deepen ASEAN-U.S. educational ties. Seven candidates from ASEAN Member States have been selected to participate in the ASEAN-U.S. Fulbright Visiting Scholar programme.

- In April 2013 the U.S. announced two new support programmes for ASEAN. They are ASEAN-U.S. Partnership for Good Governance, Equitable and Sustainable Development and Security (ASEAN-U.S. PROGRESS) and ASEAN Connectivity through Trade and Investment (ACTI).

ASEAN Plus Three (APT)

- ASEAN Plus Three (APT) countries celebrated the 15th Anniversary of APT cooperation in 2012 by hosting a number of commemorative activities.

- The APT Commemorative Summit held on 19 November 2012 reviewed the achievements of the APT cooperation over the past 15 years, and discussed its future. At the Summit, APT Leaders noted the recommendations contained in the Report of the East Asia Vision Group (EAVG). The APT Leaders also adopted a Statement on APT Partnership on Connectivity in which they agreed to develop the APT partnership to enhance connectivity through the timely implementation of related projects.

- The APT countries agreed to further enhance their cooperation in food security. The Emergency Rice Reserve Agreement, which serves as a permanent mechanism to ensure sustainable and integrated food security in the region, came into force on 12 July 2012.

- On education, a new mechanism for cooperation at the ministerial level was established, namely, the ASEAN Plus Three Education Ministers Meeting (APT-EMM). The First APT-EMM was held on 4 July 2012 in Yogyakarta, Indonesia. The Meeting adopted the APT Action Plan on Education 2010 – 2017, which contains plans and proposals to strengthen capacity building, improve the quality of education, enhance regional competitiveness, promote educational exchange, provide more educational opportunities and to nurture innovation in the region.

East Asia Summit (EAS)

- The 7th East Asia Summit (EAS) on 20 November 2012 in Phnom Penh, Cambodia, highlighted the need to utilise existing mechanisms to facilitate

the implementation of concrete projects in all the six priority areas for EAS cooperation, namely, the environment and energy, education, finance, global health issues and pandemic diseases, natural disaster mitigation and ASEAN connectivity.

- Leaders at the 7th EAS expressed their strong commitment to further strengthen human resource development in the region. In this regard, they welcomed the convening of the First EAS Education Ministers' Meeting (EMM) in Yogyakarta, Indonesia on 5 July 2012, which adopted the EAS Education Action Plan.

- The 7th EAS acknowledged the significant role of the EAS in bringing together the world's most dynamic economies in support of promoting sustained economic growth at the regional and global levels. Leaders reaffirmed their commitment to enhance coordination and cooperation in close collaboration with regional and international financial institutions, including the Asian Development Bank (ADB) and the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

- Leaders adopted the Declaration of the 7th EAS on Regional Responses to Malaria Control and Addressing Resistance to Antimalarial Medicines. The Declaration, among others, calls for the strengthening of national and regional responses to drug-resistant malaria.

- Leaders at the 7th EAS expressed their commitment to enhance both bilateral and multilateral cooperation on disaster management through regional mechanisms, including the strengthening of operations of the ASEAN Coordinating Centre for Humanitarian Assistance on disaster management (AHA Centre).

- Leaders of the EAS participating countries reaffirmed their commitment under the Declaration of the 6th EAS on ASEAN Connectivity, which emphasised not only intra-regional efforts to enhance ASEAN Connectivity, but also the importance of expanding connectivity beyond ASEAN.

ASEAN-Economic Cooperation Organisation (ECO)

- At the 12th ASEAN-ECO Ministerial Meeting held on 28 September 2012 in New York, the United States of America, both sides reiterated their commitment to deepen and intensify relations and agreed concrete actions need to be undertaken to realise the Work Programme of the MOU signed between ASEAN and ECO Secretariats in 2006. The 13th ASEAN-ECO Ministerial Meeting is expected to be held in September 2013 in New York.

- The seven Embassies of the ECO Member States in Jakarta, Indonesia, have established the ECO-Contact Group (ECO-CG) for ASEAN with the aim to further strengthen coordination between ECO and ASEAN .

ASEAN-Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC)

- At the ASEAN-GCC Ministerial Meeting held on 27 September 2012 in New York, the United States of America, Ministers expressed their satisfaction with the implementation of the ASEAN-GCC two-year Action Plan (2010-2012), which covers trade and investment, economic and development cooperation, education and training, culture and information, and mutual consultations on international issues. The Ministers decided to extend the Action Plan for another year until 2013. The Ministers also tasked the Secretariats of ASEAN and the GCC to formulate an Action Plan for consideration of the 3rd ASEAN-GCC Ministerial Meeting in 2013.

ASEAN-MERCOSUR

- ASEAN and MERCOSUR are working towards intensifying their relations. A plan of action is being discussed with the view to having it adopted at the next ASEAN-MERCOSUR Ministerial Meeting.

ASEAN-SAARC

- During a working visit to the ASEAN Secretariat on 26-27 February 2013, officials from ASEAN and SAARC Secretariats discussed the possibility of renewing the ASEAN-SAARC Secretariats' Partnership Work Plan (2008-2009) for another two years. The ASEAN Secretariat will draft the Work Plan by the end of April 2013 for further discussions with the SAARC Secretariat.

ASEAN-United Nations (UN)

- Following the adoption of the Joint Declaration on the ASEAN-UN Comprehensive Partnership at the 4th ASEAN-UN Summit held on 19 November 2011 in Bali, Indonesia, cooperation between the sides has further intensified. A number of concrete activities have been undertaken as part of the implementation of the Joint Declaration in the past year. They include seminars, workshops and training on issues such as preventive diplomacy, particularly mediation and conflict prevention, peace-keeping and post-conflict peace building. These activities aimed to strengthen civilian capacities and create a network of civilian experts in the region in these areas.

- ASEAN and the UN continue to hold annual meetings on the fringes of the annual United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) in New York City, United States of America. Such meetings provide opportunities for the Foreign Ministers of ASEAN, the President of the UNGA and the UN Secretary-General to exchange views on issues of mutual interest.

- Following the successful convening of the first ASEAN-UN Workshop on 7-8 February 2013 which focused on best practices of the UN and regional organisations in conflict prevention, peacemaking, peacekeeping and peace-building, the second ASEAN-UN Workshop on "Lessons Learned and Best Practices in Conflict Prevention and Preventive Diplomacy" was held on 5-6 April 2013 in Jakarta, Indonesia. The workshop focused on discussions on the various cases of conflict prevention and preventive diplomacy in Southeast Asia and beyond, as well as ways and means to strengthen the ASEAN-UN Comprehensive Partnership.

- Cooperation between ASEAN and the UN Specialised Agencies has also been strengthened. ASEAN is also exploring possible frameworks for cooperation with the UNESCO and the UNICEF.■

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Flags of ASEAN and Dialogue Partners.

ASEAN

Cross - Communities

ASEAN Connectivity

Enhancing ASEAN Connectivity by synergising efforts at the regional, sub-regional and national level will benefit all ASEAN Member States and contribute to ASEAN Community building. At the 15th ASEAN Summit in October 2009, Leaders drew up a statement on ASEAN Connectivity and provided their vision of a connected region. The idea was to leverage the strategic location of the ASEAN region given that a well-connected ASEAN will promote economic growth, narrow development gaps, enhance the competitiveness of ASEAN, contribute to the promotion of deeper ties among ASEAN peoples and connect ASEAN Member States with the rest of the world.

The Master Plan on ASEAN Connectivity (MPAC) and its implementation:

The Master Plan on ASEAN Connectivity, which was adopted by ASEAN Leaders at the 17th ASEAN Summit in October, 2010, is both a strategic document for achieving overall ASEAN Connectivity and a plan of action to connect ASEAN through the three dimensions of physical connectivity, institutional connectivity and people-to-people connectivity.

To date, significant progress in the implementation of the Master Plan on ASEAN Connectivity has been achieved. Some of the achievements under physical connectivity include the completion of ASEAN Highway Network (AHN) AH12 route ahead of its target year (2012). The Feasibility Study on ASEAN Roll-On/Roll-Off network was completed. Work on the Mekong-India Economic Corridor and the establishment of the ASEAN Broadband Corridor are on schedule. Work on the Singapore Kunming Rail Link (SKRL), from Singapore to Phnom Penh, Cambodia, is also on track.

Under institutional connectivity, efforts to operationalise the three transport facilitation agreements of ASEAN Framework Agreement on the Facilitation of Goods in Transit (AFAFGIT), ASEAN Framework Agreement on the Facilitation on Inter-State Transport (AFAFIST) and ASEAN Framework Agreement on Multimodal Transport (AFAMT), are ongoing. The Implementation Framework of the ASEAN Single Aviation Market (ASAM) and the Strategy Paper for the ASEAN Single Shipping Market have been adopted.

Notable developments have also taken place in the people-to-people connectivity dimension. The ASEAN Curriculum Sourcebook and the ASEAN University Network (AUN) ASEAN studies course have been developed and are now available for use as teaching materials.

While recognising these achievements, it is essential to address three critical challenges to enhancing ASEAN Connectivity. They are: Strategic resource mobilisation, Effective coordination and Targeted communications.

There is an urgent need for ASEAN to mobilise resources and develop properly prepared projects to implement the MPAC and address the infrastructure needs that are beyond the resources of ASEAN Member States. Public-Private Partnership (PPP) initiatives could be used as a tool to mobilise resources for financial purposes and for services delivery at a lower cost.

It is also essential to coordinate effectively the efforts of various sectors as ASEAN works towards the common goal of enhanced ASEAN Connectivity by pooling knowledge, expertise and technical resources to tackle cross-sectoral challenges to greater connectivity.

There is also a need to ensure the full participation of all ASEAN stakeholders and to target communications efforts to specific groups of stakeholders who can provide input and contribute to the implementation of MPAC.■

ASEAN Connectivity Coordinating Committee (ACCC)	
Established:	2011. Meets at least twice a year with additional meetings as appropriate.
Last Meeting:	1/2013 Meeting of ACCC, 3-4 April 2013, Jakarta, Indonesia.

Pursuant to the adoption of the Master Plan on ASEAN Connectivity (MPAC) by ASEAN Leaders at the 17th ASEAN Summit in October 2010, the ASEAN Connectivity Coordinating Committee (ACCC) was established to coordinate and oversee the implementation of the MPAC and report to the ASEAN Coordinating Council Ministers and the ASEAN Leaders on the progress of its implementation.

The ACCC has met eight times since its establishment in April 2011. It has developed a scorecard to keep track of the implementation of various initiatives and has been working with relevant sector bodies, sub-regional arrangements, appointed National Coordinators, Dialogue Partners, multilateral organisations and other external partners to facilitate the implementation of the Master Plan at the regional, sub-regional and national level.

A modality of coordination has been developed to set out the implementation arrangements of the MPAC by identifying the key implementing bodies, their respective roles and functions and how they relate to other stakeholders.

To effectively socialise the ASEAN Connectivity initiative to relevant stakeholders and to encourage their participation in the implementation of MPAC, the third ASEAN Connectivity Symposium, which brought together 200 participants,was held in Phnom Penh, Cambodia, on 7-8 September 2012 with the theme "Realising ASEAN Connectivity for ASEAN Community Building". The fourth ASEAN Connectivity Symposium with the theme of "Partnering with Private Sector" will be held in Brunei Darussalam in August 2013.

As part of ACCC's communication activities, the ASEAN Infrastructure Intelligence Report was published in the April 2013 issue of "Private Equity International (PEI) Infrastructure Investor". The Report features ASEAN's priorities in infrastructure development and aims to promote ASEAN Connectivity to a wider audience, particularly to the private sector firms in the infrastructure and finance sectors.

The ACCC has also published Project Information Sheets for the 15 priority projects in the MPAC to provide concrete details such as project status, type of funding required and contact details in order to facilitate the mobilisation of more resources.

Since the adoption of the MPAC, ASEAN's external partners particularly Dialogue Partners have expressed interest in supporting its implementation. The ACCC has met the Japanese Task Force on Connectivity five times since 2011, and had the first meeting with the Chinese Working Committee of China-ASEAN Connectivity Cooperation on 7 November 2012 at the ASEAN Secretariat. The ACCC also convened inaugural meetings with India and the Republic of Korea in June 2013.

The ACCC held the first informal consultation on connectivity with all Dialogue Partners and multilateral organisations on 9 September 2012 to update stakeholders on the MPAC's implementation status as well as to share information on projects that require funding.

A Leaders' Statement on ASEAN Plus Three Partnership on Connectivity was issued at the ASEAN Plus Three Summit in November 2012.

Private sector funding via Public-Private Partnerships (PPP) was identified as a possible funding source for connectivity projects. The ACCC is currently working with the Asian Development Bank (ADB), the World Bank, and the Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia (ERIA) to develop a pipeline of bankable projects and build the capacity of ASEAN Member States in preparing PPP projects.■

ASEAN Coordinating Council (ACC)	
Established:	2008. Meets at least twice a year.
Last Meeting:	12th Meeting of the ACC, 11 April 2013, Brunei Darussalam
Senior Officials:	Committee of Permanent Representatives to ASEAN (CPR).

Cambodia hosted the 11th Meeting of the ASEAN Coordinating Council (ACC) on 17 November 2012 in Phnom Penh. Among other issues, the Ministers discussed the progress of the implementation of the ASEAN Political-Security Community (APSC), ASEAN Economic Community (AEC) and ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community (ASCC) Blueprints, ASEAN's efforts in narrowing the development gap and the strengthening of the ASEAN Secretariat.

In its deliberations, the ACC noted progress in the work of the ASEAN Connectivity Coordinating Committee (ACCC), the Initiative for ASEAN Integration (IAI) and the ACC Working Group on the application by Timor-Leste to become a member of ASEAN.

The 11th Meeting of the ACC recommended to the Summit the nomination of H.E. Le Luong Minh, Viet Nam's Deputy Foreign Minister, as the new Secretary-General of ASEAN for the 2013-2017 term.

Under the Chairmanship of Brunei Darussalam, the 12th Meeting of the ACC was held on 11 April 2013 in Bandar Seri Begawan. In the Meeting, the Ministers discussed preparations for the 22nd ASEAN Summit and exchanged views on the Reports of the Secretary-General on the Work of ASEAN and on the Functions and Operations of the ASEAN Secretariat, the Report of the Executive Director of the ASEAN Foundation, the Report of the Chair of the Initiative for ASEAN Integration (IAI) Task Force and the Report of the ASEAN Connectivity Coordinating Committee to the 12th Meeting of the ACC.

The Meeting also noted the progress of ASEAN Community-Building in the ASEAN Political-Security Community (APSC), ASEAN Economic Community (AEC) and ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community (ASCC) as well as the progress of the ACC Working Group.■

ASEAN Secretariat's Outreach Activities

Students actively involved in various ASEAN awareness events.

Awareness concert of anti-Trafficking in Persons.

ASEAN Secretariat's Outreach Activities

The ASEAN Secretariat (ASEC) continues to work on multi-faceted programmes to support ASEAN Community Building through outreach activities. ASEAN's efforts are gaining ground with the use of a mix of traditional and modern communication channels.

ASEAN Awareness

ASEAN completed the "Surveys on ASEAN Community Building Efforts" in October 2012 with the surveys conducted in the capital cities of all ten ASEAN Member States (AMS). The findings will help guide the ASEAN Communication Master Plan (ACMP) that will support the communication plans of the three ASEAN Community pillars.

While the survey found that 81% of people living in the ASEAN capital cities already recognise ASEAN, a very low percentage of people understand the body. ASEC is working to assist ASEAN Community Building by intensifying awareness and correcting misunderstandings.

Digital Communication

The Internet is expanding rapidly in Southeast Asia. As a result, the use of digital communication, along side traditional media, in promoting ASEAN Community Building is essential. With the revamped ASEAN Website – integrating You Tube, Flickr, Scribd, Twitter and Facebook – visitors to the site increased 70%, from 666,000 in 2011 to 1,137,000 in 2012. The recently launched ASEAN Secretariat Facebook has over 15,000 likes and Twitter account, @ASEAN, has over 8,800 followers.

Public Outreach

ASEC is working with its partners to develop public outreach projects such as training for Member States Officials and ASEAN Secretariat Spokespersons, journalists training and the production of ASEAN Promotional Materials which will be widely distributed in all ten AMS and other countries starting on ASEAN Day, 8 August, 2013.

ASEC is also reinforcing the ASEAN Leaders' priorities such as anti-human trafficking. Working with the U.S., AUSAID, MTV EXIT, Walk Free and AMS, the campaign utilises a mix of strategies and mediums including awareness concerts, workshops and television material. On 16 December 2012, a historical concert took place at the base of the Shwedagon Temple in Myanmar with world-famous artist Jason Mraz and other known personalities taking part. In 2012, concerts, youth sessions, roadshows, screenings reached over 200,000 young people; on air products (documentaries, PSAs, concert specials) were viewed 1.5 million times, and online content (social media, mtvexit.org, video streaming) nearly one million times.

Publications

With increasing demand for publications, ASEC produced 61 titles in 2012 and 46 new and reprint publications are set to be published in 2013. These publications are being disseminated through various meetings and events and are also shared with the public through the ASEAN Website.

ASEC will continue to enhance public awareness as well as active participation of civil society at national, regional and global levels to support ASEAN Community-Building. Through media, publications and other outreach activities - including group visits - ASEC engaged 4,365 participants from school students and staff and diplomats to parliamentary and government officials from June 2012 to May 2013. ASEC will continue to welcome thousands of visitors coming to learn more about ASEAN through the Secretariat in Jakarta, Indonesia.■

ASEAN
Political - Security Community (APSC)

Introduction of ASEAN Political-Security Community (APSC)

Notable progress continues to be made across the various areas and sectors under the ASEAN Political-Security Community (APSC). Decisions taken by ASEAN Leaders and relevant Ministerial Bodies, including on new initiatives proposed under the Cambodian chairmanship of ASEAN in 2012, are being followed up by senior officials of the APSC. Brunei Darussalam, as the ASEAN Chair in 2013, is taking the necessary steps to ensure processes towards the ASEAN Community 2015, and specifically, towards the APSC and post-2015, are undertaken in a holistic and forward-looking manner with a sustained commitment and continuity to be carried through the Chairmanship of Brunei Darussalam and on to the next Chairs, Myanmar and Malaysia.

In the area of political cooperation, the stature of the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in Southeast Asia (TAC) has been further elevated with the accession of Brazil, the United Kingdom (UK) and the European Union (EU) in 2012, bringing the total number of High Contracting Parties to the TAC to 31. With the accession of Brazil as the first High Contracting Party to the TAC from Latin America, the significance and profile of the TAC as a code of conduct of inter-State relations in Southeast Asia has been significantly enhanced. International interest in the TAC continues to grow.

ASEAN is also making progress in the area of conflict resolution and management. The launch of the ASEAN Institute for Peace and Reconciliation (AIPR) during the 21st ASEAN Summit is a testimony to this effort. The AIPR is the ASEAN research institution on conflict resolution and management. It will enhance peace, security and stability in the region. Work is underway to operationalise the AIPR with the Governing Council of the Institute being put together now. In an effort to provide a framework for regional cooperation to tackle the humanitarian aspects

The ASEAN Foreign Ministers and the Secretary-General of ASEAN at the 12th Meeting of the ASEAN Coordinating Council (ACC) Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei Darussalam, 11 April 2013.

of landmines and explosive remnants of war (ERW), the 21st ASEAN Summit adopted the Statement on the Establishment of an ASEAN Regional Mine Action Centre (ARMAC). ASEAN is working on the modalities for the establishment of this Centre.

To further strengthen the promotion and protection of human rights in the region, ASEAN adopted the ASEAN Human Rights Declaration (AHRD) and signed the Phnom Penh Statement on the Adoption of the AHRD at the 21st ASEAN Summit in November 2012. This is another milestone for ASEAN in the implementation of relevant human rights provisions as enshrined in the ASEAN Charter. The focus of the ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights (AICHR) for 2013 is the implementation and dissemination of AHRD, including the translation of AHRD into the national languages of ASEAN Member States.

In the area of security cooperation, the ASEAN Regional Forum, which is entering its 20th year is working towards the enhancement of coordination with other ASEAN Sectoral Bodies on cross-cutting issues to promote synergy and complementarity among existing ASEAN mechanisms. Cooperation under the framework of the ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting (ADMM) is progressing steadily. Work is being carried out to establish the ASEAN Peacekeeping Centre's Network and the ASEAN Defence Industry Collaboration. On ADMM-Plus, three major exercises in the areas of Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Response (HADR) and Military Medicine, Counter Terrorism and Maritime Security will be conducted this year.

On the external relations front, ASEAN is vigorously intensifying cooperation with its Dialogue Partners, international and regional organisations, as well as with other external parties. External parties increasingly regard ASEAN as one of the world's most successful regional organisations, serving as the central locomotive for peace, stability and prosperity in the region and beyond. ASEAN has engaged in strategic partnerships with China, India, Japan and the Republic of Korea (ROK) and is now looking to elevate its relations with other Dialogue Partners. Additionally, ASEAN is solidifying its engagement with regional and international organisations, institutions and the UN Specialised Agencies.■

ASEAN Political-Security Community (APSC) Council	
Established:	1999. Meets at least twice a year.
Last Meeting:	9th Meeting of APSC Council, 11 April 2013, Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei Darussalam.

Under the ASEAN Charter, the ASEAN Political-Security Community (APSC) Council shall have under its purview the ASEAN sectoral ministerial bodies in the area of political-security. The APSC Council is mandated to ensure the effective implementation of relevant decisions of the ASEAN Summit and to coordinate the work of the sectoral bodies concerned.

The 8th Meeting of the APSC Council, convened on 17 November 2012 in Phnom Penh, Cambodia, reviewed the implementation of the APSC Blueprint and deliberated on important developments in ASEAN's political-security cooperation. The Meeting identified a number of priority issues that need to be followed-up this year. They include: Inter alia, the full and effective implementation of the ASEAN Human Rights Declaration, publication of the first ASEAN Security Outlook and full operationalisation of the ASEAN Coordinating Centre for Humanitarian Assistance on Disaster Management. The 8th Meeting of the APSC Council also reiterated the urgent need to enhance coordination among various sectoral bodies concerned to bring about synergy, as well as effective and efficient implementation of the APSC Blueprint, especially on cross-cutting issues such as human rights, humanitarian assistance and disaster relief, maritime security and counter-terrorism.

The 9th Meeting of the APSC Council was recently held on 11 April 2013 in Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei Darussalam. There, the APSC Council noted only two and a half years left to implement the APSC Blueprint. Therefore, the APSC Council stressed the need to develop systematic efforts across all relevant sector bodies to expedite the process of implementation. The APSC Council is looking forward to the outcome of the Biennial Review of the APSC Blueprint later this year which will assess the progress that has been made over the past two years.■

ASEAN Foreign Ministers Meeting (AMM)	
Established:	1999. Meets annually with informal meetings and retreats in between.
Last Meeting:	45th AMM, 9-12 July 2012, Phnom Penh, Cambodia.
Senior Officials:	ASEAN Senior Officials' Meeting (ASEAN SOM).

ASEAN Foreign Ministers convened a number of important meetings from July 2012 to May 2013, including: The 45th ASEAN Foreign Ministers' Meeting (AMM) on 9 July 2012 in Phnom Penh, Cambodia; the Informal AMM on 27 September 2012 in New York; the AMM on 17 November 2012 in Phnom Penh, Cambodia, on the sidelines of the 21st ASEAN Summit, and most recently, the AMM Retreat on 11 April 2013 in Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei Darussalam.

Under the Chairmanship of Cambodia in 2012, ASEAN witnessed a number of significant developments under the purview of the AMM.

With the entry into force of the Third Protocol Amending the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in Southeast Asia (TAC) on 8 June 2012, the European Union (EU) became the first regional organisation, whose members are only sovereign States, to accede to the TAC on 12 July 2012. The United Kingdom and Brazil also acceded to the TAC in 2012, bringing the total number of High Contracting Parties to the TAC to 31.

Another achievement of the AMM in 2012 was the endorsement of the Terms of Reference of the ASEAN Institute for Peace and Reconciliation (AIPR), formally launched during the 21st ASEAN Summit on 18 November 2012 in Phnom Penh, Cambodia. The AIPR will be a key ASEAN research institution on conflict resolution and management and will enhance peace, security and stability in the region. Work is underway to operationalise the AIPR. The Governing Council of the Institute is being constituted.

On the issue of the South China Sea, the ASEAN Foreign Ministers at the 45th AMM approved the ASEAN's Proposed Key Elements for the Regional Code of Conduct in the South China Sea (COC). These elements will serve as a basis for ASEAN in future negotiations with China on the COC. ASEAN Member States and China will continue to keep the momentum of dialogue and consultation and to enhance mutual trust and confidence for the eventual adoption of the COC on the basis of consensus. In an effort to maintain positive momentum on this issue, the ASEAN Foreign Ministers, on 20 July 2012, issued a Statement on ASEAN's Six-Point Principles on the South China Sea, reiterating their shared commitment to key principles regarding the South China Sea.

The AMM Retreat convened on 11 April 2013 in Bandar Seri Begawan was the first AMM under the chairmanship of Brunei Darussalam. The Foreign Ministers exchanged views on regional and international matters of common interest and concern. The Foreign Ministers also had extensive discussions on the achievements, challenges and the way forward in building the ASEAN Community. The Foreign Ministers further emphasised the need to maintain ASEAN centrality in the current evolving regional architecture, stressing that ASEAN must take a more proactive stance and set the agenda through the mechanisms and processes where it is the primary driving force. These include: The ASEAN Plus Three (APT), the East Asia Summit (EAS), the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) and the ASEAN Defense Ministers' Meeting Plus (ADMM Plus). The Foreign Ministers agreed that enhancing ASEAN centrality requires the organisation to respond in a timely and effective manner to challenges and developments impacting peace and stability in the region.■

Commission on the Southeast Asia Nuclear Weapon-Free Zone (SEANWFZ Commission)	
Established:	1999. Meets annually.
Last Meeting:	8 July 2012, Phnom Penh, Cambodia.
Senior Officials:	The Meeting of the Executive Committee of the SEANWFZ Commission.

At its annual meeting on 8 July 2012 in Phnom Penh, Cambodia, the Commission for the Southeast Asia Nuclear Weapon-Free Zone (SEANWFZ Commission) welcomed the progress made in the Plan of Action to Strengthen the Implementation of the SEANWFZ Treaty 2007-2012 (POA). The SEANWFZ Commission agreed to extend the POA for another five years (2013-2017). It is expected the revised POA will be adopted by the Commission at its next meeting in June 2013.

The signing of the Protocol to the SEANWFZ Treaty by the Nuclear Weapon States (NWS) is pending due to the reservations and/or declarations submitted by France, Russia and the United Kingdom. In order to maintain positive momentum on this issue, ASEAN has agreed to pursue consultations with the NWS to chart the way forward. ASEAN is looking forward to the signing of the Protocol to the Treaty on SEANWFZ and its related documents without reservations as early as possible.■

ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting (ADMM)	
Established:	2006. Meets annually, with a retreat session in between meetings.
Last Meeting:	7th ADMM, 7 May 2013, Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei Darussalam.
Senior Officials:	ASEAN Defence Senior Officials' Meeting (ADSOM).

The ASEAN Defence Ministers convened the 6th ADMM in Phnom Penh, Cambodia in May 2012, the ADMM Retreat in Siem Reap in November 2012 and the 7th ADMM in Bandar Seri Begawan in May 2013. Cooperation under the ambit of the ADMM is progressing well. Since the adoption of two important initiatives by the 5th ADMM in 2011, namely the establishment of the ASEAN Peacekeeping Centres Network and the ASEAN Defence Industry Collaboration (ADIC), other notable developments have taken place. Thailand hosted the inaugural meeting of the ASEAN Peacekeeping Centres Network in Bangkok on 4-7 September 2012 with Indonesia hosting the second meeting of the Network in September 2013. On the ADIC initiative, Malaysia hosted the second workshop in Langkawi on 30 March 2013 following the convening of the first workshop in Kuala Lumpur in April 2012.

An important outcome of the 6th ADMM was the adoption of the Concept Paper on Review of Frequency of ADMM-Plus Meetings. Upon its adoption, the ADMM-Plus will meet biennially instead of once every three years, beginning this year. More meetings at shorter intervals will allow the Defence Ministers of the ADMM-Plus countries to have more frequent exchanges of views. This will provide the Ministers more opportunities to discuss and identify security challenges and priorities of the ADMM-Plus. The frequency of the ADMM-Plus will be reviewed again after 2021 to ensure all ASEAN Member States have the opportunity to Chair the ADMM-Plus.

To further strengthen regional defence cooperation, in the 7th ADMM, Ministers endorsed two new ADMM initiatives: Establishing ASEAN Defence Interaction Programmes (ADIP) and the Establishment of Logistics Support Framework. The ADIP will strengthen regional unity and identity among the ASEAN defence establishment through various activities while the Logistics Support Framework will enhance ASEAN's capacity and develop capabilities to contribute to operational effectiveness in addressing non-traditional security challenges.

ASEAN's engagement with its Dialogue Partners in the ADMM-Plus has progressed at a steady pace since its inaugural meeting in Ha Noi, Viet Nam in October 2011. In line with the mandate put forth by Defence Ministers at the inaugural meeting, the ADMM-Plus has developed into a venue for practical cooperation between the eighteen countries in the Asia Pacific region through the work of the five ADMM-Plus Experts' Working Groups (EWGs) in the areas of humanitarian assistance and disaster relief (HADR), maritime security, counter-terrorism, military medicine and peacekeeping operations. Both the ADMM-Plus EWG on Military Medicine and Maritime Security conducted Table-Top Exercises (TTX) in July and September 2012 in Tokyo, Japan and Langkawi, Malaysia respectively. In addition to the five existing EWGs, during the 7th ADMM, Ministers adopted the Concept Paper on Establishment of Experts' Working Group (EWG) on Humanitarian Mine Action that will promote practical cooperation in the ADMM-Plus when dealing with the explosive remnants of war in the ASEAN countries. In order to facilitate a smooth transition of the ADMM-Plus EWG co-chairmanship, the Ministers adopted the Concept Paper on Transition of ADMM-Plus Experts' Working Group Co-Chairmanships.

Practical cooperation in the ADMM-Plus framework will reach new heights this year when militaries of the ADMM-Plus countries work together in the first ever ADMM-Plus HADR & Military Medicine Exercise to be held on 17-20 June 2013 in Brunei Darussalam. The EWGs on Counter-terrorism and Maritime Security will also conduct field exercises, termed as the ADMM-Plus Counter-terrorism Exercise (CTX) and the Maritime Security Field Training Exercise (FTX), respectively. The former will be held in Sydney, Australia in late September to early October 2013 and the latter in Indonesia in September 2013.

In August this year, the ASEAN Defence Ministers will meet with their counterparts in the 2nd ADMM-Plus in Brunei Darussalam.■

ASEAN Law Minister' Meeting (ALAWMM)	
Established:	1986. Meets once every three years.
Last Meeting:	8th ALAWMM, 4-5 November 2011, Phnom Penh, Cambodia.
Senior Officials:	ASEAN Senior Law Officials Meeting (ASLOM).

Continuing its support of ASEAN community-building and integration efforts, the ALAWMM met at its 8th Meeting on 4-5 November 2011, in Phnom Penh, Cambodia. There, the Ministers discussed a wide range of issue pertaining to regional legal cooperation to ensure the success of transforming ASEAN into a rules-based organisation.

The ALAWMM is working on various areas of legal cooperation in ASEAN including: The development of the ASEAN government Law Directory; the ASEAN Legal Information Authorities (ALIA) and the Exchange of Study Visits among legal officers of ASEAN Member States. These programmes have greatly benefited ASEAN Member States in their efforts to promote awareness and understanding of each other's legal and judicial systems. The ALAWMM also

provides guidance to the ASEAN Senior Law Officials Meeting (ASLOM) with support on matters such as cooperation on mutual legal assistance in criminal matters, extradition, counter-terrorism and mutual legal assistance in civil and commercial matters, maritime security, conservation of coastal and marine environment, progressive liberalisation of trade in legal services and the harmonisation of ASEAN trade law.

A Workshop on Strengthening Legal Information Network among ASEAN Member States was held on 12-13 June 2012 in Phnom Penh, Cambodia. There leaders exchanged views on strengthening legal cooperation in ASEAN and the possible contribution of the judiciaries of ASEAN Member States in ASEAN Community-Building and Integration efforts, particularly transforming ASEAN into rules-based organisation.

In other important events and developments, the Workshop on ASEAN Regulations and the Hague Convention on Abolishing the Requirement of Legalisation for Foreign Public Documents was convened on 27-29 November 2012 and the Workshop on Harmonisation of the Trade Laws of the ASEAN Member States took place on 11-13 March 2013. These Workshops have contributed greatly to ALAWMM's efforts to promote the awareness and understanding of Member States' laws and regulations. This includes the applicability of international treaties and conventions in areas such as the abolishment of the legalisation of public documents, international arbitration and contracts on the international sale of goods.■

ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Transnational Crime (AMMTC)	
Established:	1997. Meets biennially.
Last Meeting:	8th AMMTC, 11 October 2011, Bali, Indonesia.
Senior Officials:	ASEAN Senior Officials' Meeting on Transnational Crime (SOMTC).

The ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Transnational Crime (AMMTC) is ASEAN's highest policy making body on cooperation to combat transnational crime. The Senior Officials Meeting on Transnational Crime (SOMTC) was established in 2001 to support the AMMTC.

To implement the ASEAN Plan of Action to Combat Transnational Crime, the SOMTC has a Work Programme covering the eight areas of transnational crime, namely Counter-terrorism; Illicit Drug Trafficking; Trafficking in Persons; Arms Smuggling; Sea Piracy; Money Laundering; International Economic Crime and Cybercrime. The Work Programme is reviewed once every two years. During the 12th SOMTC held on 18-19 September 2012 in Bangkok, Thailand, ASEAN Member States reported on – and reviewed – the progress made in the Work Programme for 2010-2012. SOMTC is finalising the Work Programme for 2013-2015.

Taking into account the need to urgently combat human trafficking across the region, the ASEAN Member States are considering the development of a Regional Plan of Action on Combating Trafficking in Persons (RPA) and an ASEAN Convention on Trafficking in Persons (ACTIP).

In the area of counter-terrorism, ASEAN Member States have ratified the ASEAN Convention on Counter-Terrorism (ACCT) by January 2013. This is a significant achievement. The AMMTC/SOMTC is the main Sectoral Body responsible for monitoring and reviewing the implementation of the ACCT, and it is committed to ensuring its effectiveness in helping to counter terrorism in the region.

The SOMTC has also ensured work to address other areas of transnational crime is progressing well. Led by the respective Voluntary Lead Shepherds, practical activities on sea piracy and cybercrime were implemented.

Progress has also been made in ASEAN's cooperation with Dialogue Partners. In 2012, consultations were held with Australia, China, the EU, Japan, New Zealand, the Plus Three Countries, the Republic of Korea, Russia and the United States of America. Reviews of the respective Work Programmes or Work Plans with Australia, China, New Zealand and Russia on combating transnational crime were also conducted with the aim of strengthening cooperation. ASEAN also agreed to work with the EU and the Republic of Korea to develop respective Work Plans to combat transnational crime. ASEAN's consultations with China and the Plus Three countries reached the 10th year milestone and

the ASEAN-Japan Counter-Terrorism Dialogue has also begun its Second Phase (2012-2015).

Following the Leaders' Declaration on Drug-Free ASEAN 2015, which was adopted at the 20th ASEAN Summit on 3-4 April 2012, a Special Ministerial Meeting on Drug Matters was hosted by Thailand on 31 August 2012 in Bangkok. At the meeting, Ministers took note of the findings of the Mid-term Review on the Implementation of the ASOD Work Plan and made recommendations on issues including the development of cross-border investigations and cooperative programmes under the framework of the Master Plan on ASEAN Connectivity (MPAC) and collaboration among sectoral bodies under the APSC Community and the ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community (ASCC) to realise the goal of a ASEAN Drug-Free by 2015.

The 9th AMMTC will be convened on 15-19 September 2013 in Vientiane, Lao PDR.■

ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF)	
Established:	1994. Meets annually.
Last Meeting:	19th ARF, 12 July 2012, Phnom Penh, Cambodia.
Senior Officials:	ARF Senior Officials Meeting (ARF SOM).

This year marks two decades of cooperation for the ARF. The Forum continues to make steady progress by deepening cooperation between its members in priority areas of disaster relief, counter-terrorism, maritime security, non-proliferation, peacekeeping operations and the promotion of a defence dialogue. Today, greater level of interaction through a wide array of activities is evident. These activites range from seminars and workshops involving subject matter experts, to table top and field training exercises in which physical assets are activated and mobilised.

In the area of disaster relief, the ARF Disaster Relief Exercise (ARF DiREx) 2013 was conducted in Cha-Am/Hua-Hin, Thailand on 7 May 2013. Emulating the success of the ARF DiREx 2011, this year's exercises featured tabletop and field training activities focused on civil-military coordination. The role of the ASEAN Coordinating Centre for Humanitarian Assistance and disaster management (AHA Centre) was also tested for the first time in a large-scale disaster relief simulation involving countries beyond ASEAN.

Cooperation in counter-terrorism and transnational crime include cyber-security, cyber-terrorism, bio-security and bio-terrorism. The ARF Statement by the Ministers of Foreign Affairs on Cooperation in Ensuring Cyber Security, adopted by the ARF Ministers at the 19th ARF in Phnom Penh, Cambodia on 12 July 2013, reiterated the need to further intensify regional cooperation on security in the use of information and communications technology (ICT) and called for the development of an ARF work plan to guide the ARF's cooperation in this matter. In the area of bio-terrorism, the ARF has developed a set of Best Practices for Implementation of a Disease Surveillance System. This was also adopted at the 19th ARF.

Looking beyond its twentieth anniversary, the ARF will need to intensify its cooperation in order to continue to address challenges, including those of non-traditional security challenges. The ARF is also strengthening its coordination both within the Forum, and with other existing ASEAN mechanisms. The aim is to synergise with, and reduce the duplication of efforts with other more recently established ASEAN mechanisms such as the ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting Plus (ADMM-Plus) and the East Asia Summit (EAS) which also focus on areas of cooperation such as on non-traditional security issues.

The ARF is a successful example of multilateral dialogue and cooperation relating to issues of common security concerns in the region. The way forward for the Forum is to continue to nurture confidence building measures, as well as to concentrate on the development of preventive diplomacy initiatives, the next stage of its evolutionary approach.■

Committee of Permanent Representatives to ASEAN (CPR)	
Established:	2009. Meets regularly.
Last Meeting:	11th Meeting, 7 June 2013, Jakarta, Indonesia.

Cambodia officially handed over the Chairmanship of the CPR to Brunei Darussalam on 10 January 2013, during the first meeting of the year. Under the Chairmanship of Brunei Darussalam, the CPR continues to implement its tasks as mandated by the ASEAN Charter and ASEAN Coordinating Council (ACC), including the enhancement of cooperation and coordination with the ASEAN Secretariat, ASEAN Dialogue Partners and Sectoral Partner and to engage with non-ASEAN Ambassadors to ASEAN. The CPR has held informal meetings with a number of visiting dignitaries and senior officials from other countries and international organisations in the course of its work.

In line with its mandate to facilitate ASEAN's cooperation with Dialogue Partners and other external partners, the CPR is working on a number of guidelines and cooperation documents that will enable ASEAN to expand and enhance cooperation with those Partners effectively and in a mutually beneficial manner. Some of these documents will be completed this year while others will require more comprehensive deliberation.

In the first quarter of this year, the CPR has completed a number of tasks. They include the finalisation of various agreements with external parties such as the ASEAN Development Bank (ADB) and United Nations' Educational, Scientific and Cultural Cooperation (UNESCO) and the adoption and approval of documents to improve the operations of the ASEAN Secretariat.

As part of its efforts to promote and educate the public about ASEAN, the CPR is working on the draft of the ASEAN Communication Master Plan (ACMP). Through this it will recommend strategies for the implementation of existing communication plans within the three community pillars, based on findings entailed in "Surveys on ASEAN Community Building Effort 2012", completed in October last year. The ACMP is expected to be submitted to the ACC for adoption soon.

As part of its work, the CPR continues to support and engage closely with relevant sector bodies and the ASEAN Secretariat.■

ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights (AICHR)	
Established:	2009. At least two meetings per year, with additional meetings as necessary.
Last Meeting:	12th Meeting of AICHR, 6-10 May 2013.

At the 21st ASEAN Summit in Phnom Penh, Cambodia on 18 November 2012, Leaders adopted the "ASEAN Human Rights Declaration" (AHRD). The declaration was drafted by AICHR. During this meeting, ASEAN Leaders also signed the Phnom Penh Statement on the Adoption of the AHRD to supplement the AHRD and to ensure that in the implementation of the AHRD, ASEAN Member States will maintain their commitment to international and regional human rights instruments to which they are parties. The AHRD is a landmark document that sets out the normative framework on human rights cooperation and ensures the promotion and protection of human rights in ASEAN. AICHR is now focussing on innovative ways to disseminate the AHRD and is discussing the possibility of developing other legal instruments on human rights.

AICHR is also implementing its Priority Programmes and Activities 2013. These include workshops and training activities with various stakeholders. In November 2012 AICHR collaborated with the Australian Human Rights Commission to convene the Regional Workshop on the Right to Peace and the Joint Workshop on Corporate Social Responsibility. AICHR continues to cooperate closely with United Nations' agencies such as UN Women and United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees on programs like the Intensive Learning Workshop on Women's Human Rights (WHR) for the Regional and National Secretariats to ASEAN Human Rights' Bodies and the Regional Workshop of National Registrars on Best Practices in Birth Registration.

AICHR had also conducted two trainings on human rights; the Regional Training Program on Promoting

Access to Justice and Human Rights and the Regional Advanced Training Programme on Human Rights: Training of the Trainers for ASEAN government officials. AICHR also held an ASEAN Youth Debate on Human Rights with the theme, "Mainstreaming Human Rights in ASEAN Community-Building."

To mark AICHR's three year anniversary, in 2012 the body launched its regional website (www.aichr.org) and the AICHR Booklet. AICHR has also made the AHRD available in booklet form. The AHRD, available in English and several other ASEAN languages, can be downloaded from the AICHR website.■

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ASEAN
Economic Community (AEC)

Introduction of ASEAN Economic Community (AEC)

Despite the uncertain global environment, ASEAN grew by 5.6 percent in 2012, up from 4.7 percent in 2011. This growth was underpinned by strong domestic demand. The need to be resilient in the face of global uncertainties has also pushed the region to pursue its integration agenda further. As a result, the ASEAN Economic Community (AEC) continues to make good progress. By the end of March 2013, approximately 78 percent of measures due under the AEC Blueprint were implemented, with significant gains across pillars.

The ASEAN Comprehensive Investment Agreement is now fully enforced and the landmark ASEAN Agreement on Movement of Natural Persons (MNP) has been signed. The pilot implementation of the ASEAN Single Window, which is expected to contribute to improved trade facilitation in the region, is well underway while in transport facilitation, progress on the ratification of agreements is being made. A work program was also developed to address non-tariff barriers (NTBs), including the enhancement of non-tariff measures (NTMs) database and the engagement of the private sector to obtain feedback on NTB and NTM issues. Over the past year, the region's financial markets have deepened and now there is a greater focus on capital market development and the integration of banking and insurance markets. This has led to strong financial intermediation across the region, supporting trade integration.

Efforts to implement the ASEAN Framework for Equitable Economic Development that are intended to narrow the development gap in the region have gained momentum with new initiatives such as financial inclusion being introduced. Meanwhile, negotiations for the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership, which will further cement ASEAN's centrality when completed by 2015, have also started.

ASEAN's presence at the international expo.

Despite this progress, realising the AEC is still a challenge, particularly due to the uncertainty of the global economic environment. The intensification of risk owing to questions surrounding the credibility of globalisation casts some doubt on the region's ability to manage its own integration. Of particular concern are potential pullbacks in trade and capital flows into the region as global conditions deteriorate. This raises the possibility that some Member States may revert to protectionist measures and inward-looking policies to shield their own domestic economies.

Nonetheless, the AEC is still the region's best strategic response to preserving its competitive strength. Over the years, work has intensified at varying levels to implement the elements of the AEC. While there have been important and positive achievements, more efforts are needed to achieve integration targets. The AEC is drawing near and ASEAN continues to follow the priorities set out by Leaders in the Phnom Penh Agenda during the 20th Summit in April 2012. It is clear Member States need to redouble their efforts and take active steps to realise the AEC by 2015.■

ASEAN Economic Community (AEC) Council	
Established:	2009. Meets at least twice a year.
Last Meeting:	9th Meeting of AEC Council, 10-11 April 2013, Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei Darussalam.
Senior Officials:	Senior Economic Officials Meeting (SEOM).

One of the priorities set out by the AEC Council last year was to implementation AEC measures on time. Given the constraints faced by Member States in doing so, the AEC Council recognised that not all elements could be concluded simultaneously, hence the need to prioritise and adopt a new approach to realistically assess what the AEC will be able to deliver by 2015. This approach involves focusing on priority areas where significant progress can be achieved. It also takes into account a given Member State's capacity to implement the AEC.

As a result, the AEC Council endorsed the AEC Deliverables to ensure realistic outcomes are achieved by 2015 by focusing on prioritised measures or areas deemed critical for an integrated market to flourish. The Council also recognised the need for Member States to ratify the signed ASEAN agreements or protocols; align regional initiatives to domestic laws and regulations; and address domestic constraints to implement regional and country-specific commitments. In addition, the Council also recognised the success of the AEC depends largely on Member States' ability to follow through on their commitments.

Despite progress in a number of areas, many AEC measures are still pending as of the end of March 2013. These include measures on trade facilitation (customs modernisation, standard and conformance), services liberalisation, investment, agriculture, consumer protection and the ratification of transport agreements. These delays are attributed to the inability of Member States to comply with decisions, treaties and protocols at the national level. This is of concern because the inability of Member States to follow through on their commitments may undermine the success of the AEC.

The implementation of AEC agreements requires the understanding and confidence of the private sector. As emphasised by the Council, this aspect of the AEC should be further strengthened. Formal consultations with the private sector and regional authorities may still be used but there is a need to develop new and innovative strategies to maximise the dynamic contribution of the private sector to integration, including strong public and private sector partnerships to support the AEC.

Given the AEC is a market-driven process; there is a need to align the AEC with the needs of relevant markets. The business community – as well as other stakeholders – should be kept well informed and be consulted on AEC initiatives. This requires more effort, particularly at the country level, to communicate how the AEC works and secure greater buy-in from the wider population. Moving forward, the AEC Council urges the development of an AEC communication plan and key messaging strategies. The objective of this is to not only communicate the goals of the AEC to various stakeholders, but also to promote greater transparency of the AEC integration process.■

ASEAN Economic Ministers (AEM)	
Established:	1975. Meets annually.
Last Meeting:	44th AEM, 7-8 March 2013, Ha Noi, Viet Nam.
Senior Officials:	Senior Economic Officials Meeting (SEOM).

As ASEAN moves closer towards the AEC by 2015, AEM have intensified their work to ensure the AEC is on track. Building on the successes of Cambodia as AEM Chair in 2012, Brunei Darussalam as AEM Chair for 2013 has outlined the priorities of her Chairmanship. These include: The establishment of a mechanism to assist ASEAN SMEs; enhance ASEAN's competitiveness; enhance youth entrepreneurship in ASEAN; strengthen ASEAN's relationship with its Dialogue Partners; and establish ASEAN Business Networks. The AEM agreed to be guided by these priorities this year.

In order for ASEAN to preserve its credibility, the AEM also underscored the importance of delivering on all of these priorities by 2015. The AEM also expressed their support to Myanmar and Malaysia as the forthcoming AEM Chairs in 2014 and 2015 respectively.

Trade in Services

ASEAN continues to make significant strides in facilitating the free flow of services. The 8th package of services commitments has been completed and it further broadens and deepens the level of Member States' services commitments under the ASEAN Framework Agreement on Services (AFAS). ASEAN has also launched negotiations on the 9th package of services commitments, which is expected to be completed this year.

In line with the creation of a single market and production base, ASEAN signed the ASEAN Agreement on the Movement of Natural Persons in November 2012. This Agreement enhances the framework for greater mobility of natural persons engaged in the trade of goods and services and investment and provides for streamlined and transparent procedures for applications relating to the temporary entry and stay of natural persons such as business visitors, intra-corporate transferees, contractual service suppliers and other categories, as may be scheduled by Member States.

To further strengthen the platform and legal framework to realise the free flow of services, ASEAN has mandated the enhancement of the existing AFAS to a comprehensive services agreement on par with international best practices. To guide the development of enhanced AFAS, ASEAN has endorsed the general principles for the enhancement of the existing agreement, which include: Adherence to a multilateral trading agreement; building upon and enhancing existing ASEAN services agreements, including those signed with Dialogue Partners; looking forward and considering best practices; and no backtracking from existing commitments under AFAS and ASEAN + FTA Agreements. ASEAN has set out a timeline with concrete milestones in accordance with the mandate to complete the enhanced new services agreement in 2015. In 2012, preparatory work began on possible elements of the enhanced agreement and the potential for capacity building in relation to new trends and developments in the trade in services agreement.

Competition Policy and Law

The ASEAN Experts Group on Competition (AEGC) continues to foster a culture of fair competition by implementing several initiatives in ASEAN. In September 2012, the 2nd ASEAN Competition Conference was held. The recently launched Guidelines on Developing Core Competencies in CPL for ASEAN, based on AMS's experiences and internationally-recommended practices, are now available for use by staff of competition-related agencies in AMS. The guidelines will help to develop and strengthen their required core competencies. The Guidelines focus on three key areas of competency: (i) institutional building; (ii) enforcement; and (iii) advocacy.

To build the capacity of competition-related agencies, three workshops have been conducted since June 2012 focused on: (i) sharing of experiences of Australia and New Zealand's agencies in developing core competencies in competition policy and law; (ii) impact and benefits of competition policy and law on businesses in ASEAN; and (iii) enhancing ASEAN's participation in international cooperation on competition policy. Other focal activities for completion in 2013-14 include: The development of Strategy and Tools for Regional Advocacy on competition policy and law, strengthening of the core competencies in competition policy and law, as well as the finalisation of the AEGC Capacity Building Roadmap.

Consumer Protection

Work on the Notification and Information Exchange on Recalled and/or Banned Products by the ASEAN Committee on Consumer Protection (ACCP) is ongoing. Lists of officially recalled and/or banned products and of voluntarily recalled products in ASEAN are being updated. This process began on 1 November 2011. These lists can be accessed via the ACCP website <www.aseanconsumer.org>.

Additionally, several other initiatives are being developed by the ACCP for completion and implementation in 2013-2014 with support of the ASEAN-Australia Development Cooperation Program Phase (AADCP) II. These initiatives include: (i) developing Complaint and Redress Mechanism Models in ASEAN; (ii) strengthening Technical Competency for Consumer Protection in ASEAN; (iii) supporting Research and Dialogue in Consumer Protection, through eight (8) consumer protection digests, one (1) case study on emerging

consumer protection issue and one (1) annual conference on consumer protection for 2013; and (iv) developing Public Awareness Models for Consumer Protection.

Intellectual Property Rights (IPRs)

Implementing the endorsed ASEAN IPR Action Plan (2011-2015) is the main focus of the ASEAN Working Group on Intellectual Property Cooperation (AWGIPC). It outlines 28 initiatives and five strategic goals. The Action Plan has led to progress in the regional legal and policy infrastructures that address the evolving demands of the IP landscape. Meanwhile, advocacy initiatives are being prepared to incentivise applicants to use the ASPEC (ASEAN Patent Examination Cooperation), which became operational on 30 April 2012. ASPEC aims to improve the turnaround time of patent application processing and the quality of search and examination reports among ASEAN IP Offices.

The Philippines acceded to the Protocol Relating to the Madrid Agreement Concerning the International Registration of Marks on 25 July 2012 and Brunei Darussalam acceded to the Patent Cooperation Treaty on 24 April 2012. Both Member States are taking steps to accede to the Hague System for the International Registration of Industrial Designs (Geneva Act). These registration systems will allow ASEAN Member States to better participate in global IP systems. The accession of Lao PDR to the WTO on 2 February 2013 includes the commitment to comply fully with the WTO Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS) Agreement by 31 December 2016.

With regards to cooperation between ASEAN and Dialogue Partners, the Second ASEAN-Japan Heads of IP Offices Meeting was held in Singapore on 11 July 2012. There, the Memorandum of Cooperation on Industrial Property between ASEAN and JPO was signed and the ASEAN IPOs-JPO IPR Action Plan 2012-2013 was adopted. Activities under the ASEAN-China Work Programme 2012-2013 are also being implemented. The Overall Work Plan 2013-2015 and Annual Work Plan 2013 under the ECAP III Phase II were adopted at the Project Steering Committee Meeting in March 2013. With the U.S., through joint ASEAN Secretariat-USPTO efforts, regional capacity-building programmes were successfully carried out in 2012-2013 with over 100 participants taking part. WIPO has reiterated its commitment to extending assistance to AWGIPC in implementing the twenty-three (23) initiatives under the Action Plan.

Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs)

The Strategic Action Plan for ASEAN SME Development (2010-2015) is being reviewed by the ASEAN SME Agencies Working Group (SMEWG) with a view to take stock of various initiatives and to develop a comprehensive SME Development Roadmap that will steer the development of SMEs across the region. Further to this, the ASEAN SME Policy Index is being devised with the assistance of the Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia (ERIA). The Country Reports of SME Policy Index are expected to be finalised by November 2013.

The ASEAN SME Advisory Board ("the Board") held its first dialogue with the ASEAN Economic Ministers in August 2012 to exchange views on the issues faced by SMEs in the region and discussed way forward as SMEs increasingly contribute to the the economic development of the region. The ASEAN SMEWG, in collaboration with the ASEAN Business Advisory Council (ASEAN-BAC), regularly convenes the ASEAN Business Award (ABA) alongside the annual ASEAN Business & Investment Summit (ASEAN-BIS). The winners of the ABA, both multinational corporations and SMEs, are recognised as "ASEAN's Most Admired Enterprises" across four categories namely growth, innovation, employment and Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR).

Further to the successful introduction of the "Directory of Outstanding ASEAN SMEs 2011", the "Directory of Innovative SMEs in ASEAN 2012" (http://www.scribd.com/doc/112935410/Directory-of-Innovative-SMEs-in-ASEAN-2012) was launched alongside the ASEAN Business Investment Summit 2012. It recognises and encourages innovation and creativity among ASEAN SMEs. Meanwhile, the ASEAN Business Award 2013 will include the criteria of "Youth Entrepreneur" (YE), which will be assessed under the Innovation category.

On progress in the SME sector, several projects under the Strategic Action Plan have been completed. They

include: (i) the ASEAN Multi-media Self-reliant System Toolkit Package, (ii) the ASEAN Feasibility Study of the SME Service Centre project; and (iii) the establishment of a common curriculum for entrepreneurship in ASEAN. Regarding the ASEAN Framework on Equitable Economic Development (AFEED), a Financial Inclusion Forum was held in May 2012. This was one of the first activities to take place under this Framework.

Public-Private Sector Engagement (PPE)

Public-Private Sector Engagement (PPE) has been conducted at all levels of ASEAN bodies in various forms and modalities, on a regular and ad-hoc basis. In 2012, the ASEAN Economic Ministers (AEM) and the Senior Economic Officials (SEOM) met and exchanged views with the ASEAN Business Advisory Council (ASEAN-BAC), East Asia Business Council (EABC), U.S.-ASEAN Business Council (US-ABC), EU-ASEAN Business Council, Federation of Japanese Chambers of Commerce and Industry in ASEAN (FJCCIA) and the newly established Canada-ASEAN Business Council.

Based on interactions with the ASEAN Secretariat, industry associations such as the ASEAN Federation of Textile Industries (AFTEX) and the ASEAN Furniture Industries Council (AFIC) highlighted that they are actively fostering the formation of regional production networks. Meanwhile, the first ever ASEAN-US Business Summit was held on 30 August 2012 in Siem Reap, Cambodia on the sidelines of the 44th AEM Meeting. The ASEAN-Latin Business Forum was held on 9-10 July 2012 in Jakarta, Indonesia. Following the successful ASEAN-EU Business Summits (AEBS) held in Indonesia in 2011 and in Cambodia in 2012, respectively, the 3rd AEBS was convened on 9 March 2013 in Ha Noi, Viet Nam alongside the 19th AEM Retreat.

These private sector interactions and engagements are very important in the AEC building process. They serve as a useful platform for the private sector to directly voice its concerns and it also gives policy making bodies and relevant agencies the opportunity to take on board these feedback and fine tune and/or re-align the implementation of the AEC measures.

External Economic Relations

The implementation of the ASEAN Plus One FTAs and the mandates that arise from the various AEM consultations with ASEAN's major trading partners mark significant milestones for ASEAN. In November 2012, negotiations for the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) were launched by Leaders of the ten ASEAN Member States and ASEAN's six FTA partners: Australia, China, India, Japan, Korea and New Zealand. Leaders also endorsed the Guiding Principles and Objectives for Negotiating the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership adopted by the AEM in August 2012. Substantial progress has also been made in finalising the scoping papers for trade in goods and services and investment. The AEM endorsed the Terms of Reference for the RCEP Trade Negotiating Committee in March 2013 and formal negotiations have begun in May 2013.

Other milestones include: (i) the signing of the Third Protocol to Amend the Framework Agreement on Comprehensive Economic Co-operation between ASEAN and China along with the Protocol to Incorporate Technical Barriers to Trade and Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures into the ASEAN-China Agreement on Trade in Goods; (ii) adoption of the Work Plan for Further Liberalization of sensitive products under the ASEAN-Korea FTA; (iii) adoption of the 2012-2015 ASEAN-Canada Trade and Investment Work Plan to Implement the ASEAN-Canada Joint Declaration on Trade and Investment and the establishment of the Canada-ASEAN Business Council at the First AEM-Canada Consultations in August 2012; (iv) endorsement of the ASEAN-Japan 10-year Strategic Economic Cooperation Roadmap at the AEM-METI Consultations in August 2012; (v) holding of the first ASEAN-US Business Summit in August 2012; and (vi) endorsement of the ASEAN-US TIFA Work Plan for 2013.

While the implementation of the ASEAN Plus One FTAs is on track, much remains to be done, including the completion of negotiations for trade in services and investment under the ASEAN-Japan Comprehensive Economic Partnership (AJCEP) and the finalisation of the Trade in Services and Investment Agreements under the ASEAN-India FTA, which both parties hope

to sign by August 2013. Notwithstanding, ASEAN and its respective FTA partner are redoubling their efforts and exercising a significant degree of flexibility to complete pending negotiations and have the agreements signed this year to make way for smoother RCEP negotiations.

Statistical Cooperation

Mechanisms of data collection, data quality and data accessibility of ASEAN's Community Statistical System (ACSS) are being strengthened to help facilitate the wider dissemination of ASEAN statistics on regional integration monitoring. In September 2012, the ACSS Code of Practice (CoP) was adopted. The guidelines and standards entailed provide a means of ensuring trust, accountability and the maintenance of the highest professional standards in the development, production, dissemination and communication of ASEAN statistics. Indicators and the relevant instruments to implement the CoP, through a self-assessment process, are also being developed. Work on improvement of the quality and harmonisation of statistics is done on a continuous basis. A new set of publications released include annual publications on the Statistics of International Trade in Services (SITS), Foreign Direct Investment Statistics (FDIS) and the Statistical Yearbook and quarterly bulletin of International Merchandise Trade Statistics and the Millennium Development Goals in November 2012. These were published under the assistance of the EU-ASEAN Statistical Capacity Building (EASCAB) Programme. Efforts are also being made to strengthen ASEANstats, the technical arm of the ACSS Committee and the regional focal point on ASEAN statistics.

In September 2012, the ACSS Committee endorsed a plan to enhance accessibility and dissemination of ASEAN statistics through the Regional Information Exchange Database System (REXDBS). This will harmonise data on selected domains across all Member States. In support of monitoring ASEAN regional integration under the AEC and ASCC Pillars, the ASEAN Secretariat published the ASEAN Brief 2012 in February 2013 with the assistance of ASEAN-Australia Development Cooperation Programme – Phase II (AADCP II).■

ASEAN Free Trade Area (AFTA) Council	
Established:	1992. Meets annually.
Last Meeting:	Joint AEM-26th AFTA Council Meeting, 27 August 2012, Siem Reap, Cambodia.
Senior Officials:	Senior Economic Officials Meeting (SEOM).

To ensure the relevant objectives of the AEC Blueprint are met, including the implementation of tariff commitments under the ASEAN Trade in Goods Agreement (ATIGA), the AFTA Council (AFTAC) is focusing on providing guidance in the following key areas: Trade facilitation, which continues to remain high on AFTAC's agenda; review of the Work Programme to address Non-Tariff Barrier (NTB) effects of Non-Tariff Measures (NTMs); completion of the ASEAN Single Window (ASW) Pilot Project and eventual "live" implementation of the ASW; implementation of the Second Self-Certification Pilot Project; and public-private sector engagement to obtain feedback on issues faced in the implementation of the AEC measures.

ASEAN Trade in Goods Agreement (ATIGA)

Several follow-on activities and initiatives have been undertaken by ASEAN Member States since the entry into force of the ATIGA in May 2010. Various committees and subcommittees working on trade in goods, customs including the ASEAN Single Window, standards and conformance and sanitary and phytosanitary have intensified their efforts to improve transparency in the implementation of the AEC measures and enhance trade facilitation for a business friendly environment.

Implementation of the ATIGA

The Protocol to Amend Certain ASEAN Economic Agreements related to Trade in Goods was signed on 8 March 2013 during the 19th AEM Retreat in Ha Noi, Viet Nam. The list of superseded agreements will be administratively annexed to the ATIGA once the following agreements/protocols are amended: (i) 1992 Framework Agreement on Enhancing ASEAN

Economic Cooperation; (ii) 2000 e-ASEAN Framework Agreement; (iii) 2004 ASEAN Framework Agreement for the Integration of Priority Sectors; and (iv) 2004 ASEAN Sectoral Integration Protocols.

Tariff Elimination

Following the revision of the Harmonised System (HS) of the World Customs Organization version 2007 to version 2012 to reflect the changing patterns of international trade and technology, the ASEAN Harmonized Tariff Nomenclature (AHTN) has been revised into AHTN 2012. Subsequent to this, ASEAN Member States are in the process of transposing the ATIGA tariff reduction schedules from AHTN 2007 into AHTN 2012 and the Products Specific Rules (PSR) from HS Code 2007 into 2012. Once the transposition process is completed, the ATIGA tariff reduction schedules and PSRs will be endorsed and uploaded in the ASEAN Secretariat website (http://www.asean.org/25053.htm and http://www.asean.org/images/2012/Economic/AFTA/annex/Annex3.pdf).

Rules of Origin (ROO)

Self Certification System: The First Self-Certification Pilot Project in ASEAN with Brunei Darussalam, Malaysia, Thailand and Singapore has been extended until 31 December 2015. This will provide more time for participating Member States to better assess the implications of self-certification on their organisation.

Governments of Participating Member States in the Second Pilot project for the Implementation of the ASEAN wide regional self-certification system signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) in Cambodia on 29 August 2012. Member States who signed the MOU include: Indonesia, Lao PDR and the Philippines. Implementation of the Second Self-Certification Pilot Project is expected to commence in the second quarter of this year.

Removal of the FOB value in the Certification of Origin Form D: The 26th AFTA Council endorsed a new Rule 25 in the ATIGA Operational Certification Procedures (OCP) and amended box 9 of the ATIGA CO Form D for the abolishment of the FOB value in the Certificate of Origin (CO) Form D in instances where Wholly Obtained (WO), Change in Tariff Classification (CTC) and Process Rules are applied. A two-year flexibility for implementation was given to Cambodia and Myanmar. Following this, the Sub-committee on ATIGA Rules of Origin (SC-AROO) has agreed to a proposed text of the new Rule 25 to be submitted for the AFTA Council for endorsement. ASEAN Member States will be allowed to concurrently use the old and new CO Form D during a 6-month transition period.

Rules of Origin (ROO): The CCA/SC-AROO is considering the recommendations of a study for the most appropriate ROO for the automotive industry in adopting Change in Tariff Classification (CTC) as an alternative rule to the existing Regional Value Content (RVC) 40 percent rule for automotive components. In the meantime, on the continuing efforts to ascertain most appropriate ROO in other sectors that would be beneficial to ASEAN's integration process, the Term of Reference (TOR) for the Sectoral Study on the most appropriate ROO for iron and steel products has been endorsed by the SC-AROO.

Non-Tariff Measures (NTMs)

The Work Programme to address NTB effects of NTMs is currently being reviewed by the Coordinating Committee on the Implementation of the ATIGA (CCA). The review includes the updating of the ASEAN Non-Tariff Measures (NTMs) database, engaging the private sector to obtain feedback in addressing trade impediments and discussing Matrix of Actual Cases which provide details on NTMs reported to have NTB effects.

Standards and Conformance

The ASEAN Consultative Committee for Standards and Quality (ACCSQ) in its capacity as the focal point in ASEAN for issues related to standards and conformance has been mandated to address the Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) in ASEAN in support of establishing a single market and production base. The standards and conformance activities in ASEAN continue to focus on the facilitation of Priority Integration Sectors (PIS) which include agro-based products (prepared foodstuff), automotive, electrical and electronic products, healthcare (cosmetics,

medical devices, pharmaceuticals, traditional medicine and health supplements), rubber and wood-based products. Progress on the harmonisation of standards and technical requirements for the different sectors are updated and uploaded on the ASEAN website (http://www.asean.org/news/item/harmonization-of-standards-and-technical-requirements-in-asean).

Development and Implementation of Mutual Recognition Arrangement: Mutual Recognition Arrangements (MRAs) for recognition and acceptance of conformity assessment results have been developed and implemented for the following PIS which includes the Electrical, Electronic Equipment and the Pharmaceutical sector. Twenty-one (21) testing laboratories and four certification bodies have been listed by the Joint Sectoral Committee (JSC) for the Electrical and Electronic Equipment under the ASEAN Sectoral MRA for Electrical and Electronic Equipment which entered into force on 5 April 2002. The JSC of the ASEAN Sectoral MRA for Good Manufacturing Practice (GMP) Inspection of Manufacturers of Medicinal Products has been established to monitor the implementation of the MRA which was signed on 27 April 2009. Work is ongoing to develop MRA in the Agro based and the Automotive Sectors.

Development and Implementation of Single Regulatory Regimes: The goal of the integration initiatives in the standards and conformance area is to harmonise the technical requirements or product safety and quality through the adoption of single regulatory regimes across ASEAN. There are currently two single regulatory regimes in place, one for the cosmetic sector and the other, the electrical and electronic equipment sector. Single regulatory regimes are being negotiated for the medical device sector, traditional medicine and health supplements sector.

Customs Integration

ASEAN Agreement on Customs: Following the signing of the ASEAN Agreement on Customs by ASEAN Finance Ministers on 30 March 2012, four Member States Brunei Darussalam, Malaysia, Myanmar and Viet Nam have deposited their instruments of ratification with the Secretary-General of ASEAN. Remaining Member States are expediting their domestic processes for ratification.

ASEAN Harmonised Tariff Nomenclature (AHTN): The AHTN 2012/1 was endorsed by the ASEAN Directors-General of Customs at their 20th Meeting in June 2011. So far, nine Member States Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Viet Nam have implemented the new version of the Nomenclature. ASEAN Member States are now finalising the Best Practice Guide on Tariff Classification, which will serve as a reference for Member States when they implement the advanced ruling system on tariff classification.

Development of the ASEAN Customs Transit System: ASEAN Customs is responsible for the development of Protocol 2 (Designation of Frontier Posts) and Protocol 7 (Customs Transit System), including the latter's Technical Appendix to the ASEAN Framework Agreement on the Facilitation of Goods in Transit.

Member States are expediting their bilateral consultations to finalise Protocol 2. Protocol 7 has been agreed upon by Member States and will be signed on ad-referendum basis. So far eight Member States have expressed their readiness to sign Protocol 7.

ASEAN Single Window

The ASEAN Single Window (ASW) is being developed with a view to enhancing customs release and clearance of cargo in ASEAN. The ASW is still at the pilot testing stage. The ASW Pilot Project, a scaled-down version of the endorsed design of the ASW architecture, has been completed and seven participating Member States have successfully tested the ASW Gateway connectivity. These tests have provided important data relating to the exchange of ASEAN Trade in Goods Agreement (ATIGA) Form D and the ASEAN Customs Declaration Document (ACDD). Full development and pilot testing of the ASW will proceed with additional documents and subject to an evaluation to determine the ultimate ASW for 'live' implementation. Following the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for the implementation of the ASW Pilot Project, a more comprehensive and binding legal framework agreement will be developed. It will govern the legal aspects of the "live" implementation of the ASW across Member States. The working draft text of the legal framework agreement is being considered by Member States.■

ASEAN Investment Area (AIA) Council	
Established:	1998. Meets annually.
Last Meeting:	AEM-15th AIA Council Meeting, 27 August 2012, Siem Reap, Cambodia.
Senior Officials:	Senior Economic Officials Meeting (SEOM).

2012 marked the entry into force of the ASEAN Comprehensive Investment Agreement (ACIA), replacing and transforming the ASEAN Investment Area (AIA) Agreement and the ASEAN Agreement for the Promotion and Protection of Investment into a comprehensive investment agreement along with the issuance of ACIA Schedule containing the reservation lists of Member States.

As it fulfills the objective of free of flow of investment, ASEAN has focused its efforts on the effective implementation of the ACIA with respect to investment liberalisation, promotion, facilitation and protection. Consistent with the provisions of the ACIA, Member States have commenced work to improve the investment climate as they undertake greater liberalisation and transparency measures.

Initiatives to create greater visibility for ASEAN and promote the region as a single investment destination are being intensified. Key initiatives include: The conduct of the ACIA Socialization Forum; publication of ACIA Guidebook for Businessmen and Investors; the ACIA Introductory Booklet; the Annual ASEAN Investment Report; development of the ASEAN Investment Area website; implementation of training/seminar programs on ACIA for the officials of the ASEAN Promotion Agencies; and the conduct of investment missions from ASEAN 6 to the CLMV countries.

ASEAN is also pursuing the enhancement of investment facilitation through the development and implementation of projects aimed at improving the ease of doing business in the region. Specific projects are now underway to deal with improving business licensing procedures and the adoption of best practices on investment facilitation and promotion.

Alongside these initiatives, ASEAN has convened an Investment Forum for the Heads of the ASEAN Investment Promotion Agencies. This is a platform to exchange views and discuss strategic approaches to strengthening the regional initiative to promote and facilitate investment in the region.■

ASEAN Finance Ministers' Meeting (AFMM)	
Established:	1997. Meets annually.
Last Meeting:	17th ASEAN Finance Ministers' Meeting (AFMM), 4 April 2013, Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei Darussalam.
Senior Officials:	ASEAN Finance and Central Bank Deputies' Meeting (AFDM).

Initiatives under the Road Map for Financial Integration in ASEAN (RIA-Fin), ASEAN and ASEAN+3 Financial Cooperation continue to support the realisation of the AEC. The sixth round of negotiations, focusing on insurance services, is well underway and is expected to be completed by end of this year. Moreover, the review of annex on financial services to enhance AFAS has also started. Work to integrate the banking sector under the broad thrusts and principles of ASEAN Framework Agreement on Financial Integration is taking place.

Assessment of rules pertaining to FDI, portfolio investments, current account transaction, other types of flow and repatriation and surrender requirements, have been completed. ASEAN Members also continue to update amendments of legal framework to support changes of rules.

ASEAN Bond Market Scorecard has been further improved and updated by ASEAN Members. This is complemented by capacity building and the sharing of experiences. On equity markets, the work under ASEAN Capital Market Forum (ACMF) Implementation Plan to promote the development of integrated capital markets has resulted in significant achievements monitored through the ACMF Scorecard.

Initiatives under ASEAN insurance cooperation have also been enhanced. The sharing of information on insurance development and regulation among Member States

to increase insurance penetration, self-assessment on International Association of Insurance Supervisors (IAIS) Core Principles and capacity building initiatives, continue as main pillars of insurance cooperation activities. Moreover, framework on cross-sectoral mechanism on Disaster Risk Financing and Insurance (DRFI) has been developed.

To date Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Viet Nam, together with the ADB, have signed a Shareholders' Agreement for the establishment of the ASEAN Infrastructure Fund (AIF). The AIF Limited was incorporated in April 2012 in Labuan, Malaysia to operationalize the AIF, with the first lending operations expected to start later this year.

On ASEAN+3 Financial Cooperation, the size of the Chiang Mai Initiative Multilateralization (CMIM) has been doubled to USD 240 billion. The CMIM Precautionary Line (CMIM-PL) as a crisis prevention facility has also been introduced. In order to strengthen CMIM, the preparation to institutionalise ASEAN+3 Macroeconomic Research Office (AMRO) as an international organisation is being accelerated. On ASEAN Bond Market initiative (ABMI), the New Roadmap+ has been adopted to produce tangible and concrete outcomes on ABMI. Various activities under ASEAN+3 Research Group and Task Force on Future Priorities have also been advanced.

ASEAN Integration Monitoring Office (AIMO)

In line with the monitoring objective of the World Bank-ASEAN "AEC Integration Monitoring and Evaluation Capacity Building Program – Phase I", the first draft of the AEC Integration Monitoring Report (AIMR) has been prepared and is being reviewed. It is expected to be published in June 2013. The AIMR focuses on policy implementation and actual market integration outcomes from the AEC program, particularly in the areas of trade in goods, trade facilitation, services and investment. In relation to this Project, two services workshops ("Workshop on Monitoring Regulations of Trade in Services" 4-5 June 2012 and "Monitoring of Regulation of Trade in Services Workshop: Discussion of Survey Findings" 4-5 March 2013) were held in Jakarta, to be used as inputs in the development of ASEAN Trade in Services Report. AIMO continues to produce regional surveillance reports on trade and financial integration, investment and insurance and provides regular updates of the AEC Scorecard and conducts country consultations to support the monitoring of the AEC.■

ASEAN Ministers Meeting on Agriculture and Forestry (AMAF)	
Established:	1979. Meets annually.
Last Meeting:	34th AMAF Meeting, 27 September 2012, Vientiane, Lao PDR.
Senior Officials:	ASEAN Senior Officials Meeting of the ASEAN Ministers on Agriculture and Forestry (SOM-AMAF).

Responding to ASEAN Community and regional integration, food security, climate change, bioenergy and other emerging and cross-sectoral issues over the past year, the AMAF's cooperation was marked by the consolidation and strengthening of on going efforts and renewed enthusiasm and commitment to address future challenges.

In 2012, regional cooperation and initiatives were geared towards the strengthening of food security arrangements; continued enhancement of intra- and extra-ASEAN trade and long-term competitiveness of ASEAN's food, agriculture and forestry products/commodities; promotion of cooperation, joint approaches and technology transfer with international, regional organizations and private sector; and the promotion of agricultural cooperatives and networks.

Significant progress has been noted in the fourth year of the implementation of the ASEAN Integrated Food Security (AIFS) Framework and the Strategic Plan of Action on ASEAN Food Security (SPA-FS 2009-2013), which include awareness building research, and technical assistance through strengthened cooperation with relevant stakeholders. One of the key achievements this year is the entry-into-force of the ASEAN Plus Three Emergency Rice Reserve (APTERR) Agreement, establishing a permanent mechanism to

support food security objectives in the region. It is now being actioned with the convening of the APTERR Council and the setting-up of the APTERR Secretariat. Agreement on the transformation of the ASEAN Food Security Information System (AFSIS) into a self-sustained mechanism from 2013-2015 will pave the way for its full transformation.

In response to the surge of food/commodity prices, ASEAN is closely monitoring the status and extent of the problem. The body notes the potential impacts on the wider population in the region. Although the Consumer Price Index (CPI) has shown double-digit increase in some countries in the region, ASEAN remains to be a net surplus region in terms of major food commodities like rice and sugar as well as other food commodities such as key livestock production (chicken and pork) and fisheries and seafood production.

AMAF continues to respond to the impact of climate change, as tasked by the "Joint Response to Climate Change", issued during the 16th ASEAN Summit under the umbrella "ASEAN Multi-Sectoral Framework on Climate Change: Agriculture and Forestry towards Food Security (AFCC)". It does so by reaffirming its agreement on and aiding the effective implementation of the Reduced Emission from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (REDD)-plus mechanisms as well as supporting the implementation of the ASEAN-German Programme on Response to Climate Change: Agriculture, Forestry and Related Sectors (GAP-CC). These initiatives are expected to contribute to enhanced food production, agricultural productivity and water resource sustainability, while adapting to the adverse effects of climate change and mitigating greenhouse gas emissions from various sectors, thus ensuring sustainable livelihoods for farmers and wider food security.

To enhance the competitiveness of agriculture and forestry products, AMAF continues to develop relevant standards and guidelines committed under the AEC Blueprint. Key initiatives include: The development and application of quality management systems, to ensure food safety and improve product competitiveness such as HACCP and ASENGAP; harmonization of quarantine, inspection/sampling procedures, SPS, MRLs; establishment of the ASEAN Guidelines on Chain-of-Custody for legal timber; and development of joint strategies/positions on issues related to ASEAN with international organisations such as the WTO, FAO, OIE, IPPC, Codex, CITES and dialogue partners.

Partnership arrangements with Dialogue Partners and international organisations have also been strengthened through the advancement of cooperation activities and programmes on food, agriculture and forestry in the ASEAN region.■

ASEAN Ministers on Energy Meeting (AMEM)	
Established:	1980. Meets annually.
Last Meeting:	30th AMEM, 12 September 2012, Phnom Penh, Cambodia.
Senior Officials:	ASEAN Senior Officials' Meeting on Energy (SOME).

Given the tremendous challenges being faced by the ASEAN energy sector, Member States' Energy Ministers have reiterated their resolve to step up individual and collective efforts to ensure secure, stable, affordable and environmentally sustainable, energy supplies. Through these efforts they want to enable ASEAN to achieve its economic and social development goals by 2015, as entailed in the ASEAN Community.

To identify necessary actions and measures to achieve these goals, Senior Officials on Energy (SOME) are undertaking a Mid-Term Review of the ASEAN Plan of Action for Energy Cooperation 2010-2015. They are to submit their appropriate recommendations at the 31st AMEM, expected to take place in September 2013.

Notable achievements in promoting and improving energy efficiency have been made. They include: The establishment of National Councils of the ASEAN Energy Management System (AEMAS) in six Member States; the award of certifications to 779 energy managers and 6 energy end-users under the AEMAS project; and the adoption of the Strategic Framework for the Harmonization of Energy Efficiency Standards for Household Appliances in ASEAN, with air conditioners

(A/C) selected as the first product for harmonisation. Numerous activities have been undertaken to promote the development of renewable energy, including the Study and Workshop on RE Support Mechanisms for Bankable Projects, Study and Workshop on Innovative Rural Electrification Approaches in ASEAN and the establishment of the Hydropower Competence Centre as a training center for small-scale hydropower across the region.

Progress also continues to be made in the development of the ASEAN Power Grid (APG) with the signing of the MOU between Indonesia and Malaysia on the Interconnection Project No.4 Peninsular Malaysia-Sumatra (commercial operation expected in 2017) and the agreement of the two Member States to start power exchanges of the Interconnection Project No. 6 West Kalimantan-Sarawak in 2015 has been signed. Efforts to accelerate work on the harmonisation of regulatory frameworks and technical standards for the operation of the APG are also under way. Cooperation in oil and gas is intensified through the new strategic focus on a) bilateral gas pipeline connections; and b) LNG cooperation with a focus on destination flexibility, harmonisation of LNG specifications, ship-shore compatibility and the promotion of regional technical support.

By 2030, coal is expected to make up 29.3 percent of ASEAN's energy mix. As a result, AMEM has requested Senior Officials to formulate regional cooperation strategy focused on coal supply and trading, mutual assistance in emergency situations of coal supply and the application of clean coal technologies and Carbon Capture and Storage (CCS) as means to reduce the environmental effects of coal usage.

AMEM encourages the Nuclear Energy Cooperation Sub-Sector Network (NEC-SSN) to continue to intensify capacity building efforts, in collaboration with the IAEA and other relevant partners, so that the region will be more informed and updated on the latest nuclear safety standards, developments and technologies.■

ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Science and Technology (AMMST)	
Established:	1980. Meeting held annually (including informal ministerial meeting).
Last Meeting:	The 7th Informal ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Science and Technology (IAMMST-7), 2 December 2012, Jerudong, Brunei Darussalam.
Senior Officials:	Committee on Science and Technology (COST).

The 7th Informal ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Science and Technology was held on 2 December 2012 in Jerudong, Brunei Darussalam. There leaders noted the proposed restructuring ofthe Committee on Science and Technology and its Sub-Committees through the establishment of appropriate clusters. The Ministers agreed a holistic study had to be undertaken to determine how the restructuring could be effectively implemented. The Ministers further agreed pending the result of the study, the functions and reporting systems of the COST's Sub-committees will remain unchanged.

Acknowledging that use of 80 percent of earnings from the ASEAN Science Fund (ASF) placements – as provided for in the ASF guidelines – will not be enough to support science, technology and innovation (STI) activities, the Ministers welcomed the proposal for the establishment of an ASEAN Innovation Fund (AInF) to support the implementation of STI-driven projects. The Ministers tasked the Advisory Body on the ASEAN Science Fund and the Advisory Body on the ASEAN Plan of Action on Science and Technology to jointly study the feasibility of establishing and sustaining the AInF.

The Ministers appreciated the efforts of COST to actively pursue close cooperation in science and technology (S&T) with its Dialogue Partners. The year 2012 was marked the ASEAN-EU Year of Science, Technology, and Innovation (YoSTI). The YoSTI was a year-long campaign under which a series of activities were conducted to promote and raise the visibility of S&T cooperation between the two regions.

In December 2012, the second phase of the SEA-EU-NET project was launched and the policy visit of the ASEAN COST to dialogue with relevant directorates of the European Commission in Brussels took place to celebrate the closing of the YoSTI.

Similarly, 2012 was also the ASEAN-China Year of Science and Technology Cooperation. The China-ASEAN Science and Technology Enhanced Partnership (STEP) Programme was launched at the 1st ASEAN-China Ministerial Meeting on Science and Technology on 22 September 2012 in Nanning, China. Recognising the keen intent of China to cooperate with ASEAN in S&T, Ministers tasked COST to expedite the finalisation of the draft Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on ASEAN-China cooperation in science and technology.

The Ministers also welcomed the successful conduct of S&T activities, hosted by ASEAN Member States. Further to this, Leaders showed their appreciation for advanced preparations for the conduct of the 13th ASEAN Food Conference to be hosted by Singapore on 9-11 September 2013; and the 9th ASEAN Science and Technology Week (ASTW-9) to be hosted by Indonesia in 2014.■

ASEAN Telecommunications and IT Ministers Meeting (TELMIN)	
Established:	2001. Meets annually.
Last Meeting:	12th TELMIN Meeting, 15 November 2012, Cebu, the Philippines.
Senior Officials:	ASEAN Telecommunications and IT Senior Officials' Meeting (TELSOM), and ASEAN Telecommunication Regulators' Council (ATRC).

The 12th TELMIN adopted the Mactan Cebu Declaration, entitled "Connected ASEAN – Enabling Aspirations". This reiterated ASEAN's commitment to the implementation of the ASEAN ICT Masterplan 2015 (AIM 2015) to promote ICT driven economic transformation through people engagement and empowerment, innovation, infrastructure development, human capital development and by bridging the digital divide.

To implement the AIM 2015 and the Mactan Cebu Declaration, a strategy to establish the ASEAN Broadband Corridor has been formulated with three development-stage objectives: (1) increase availability of broadband services, (2) provide universal access, and (3) boost broadband penetration/utilisation. Each AMS seeks to implement a set of recommended initiatives for achieving their development objective. Each AMS is to present an implementation plan at the TELSOM meeting in the second quarter of 2013.

The ASEAN Bridging Digital Divide (BDD) Task Force was also established to encourage commercial investment by concentrating on the means to increase mobile spectrum usage, terrestrial connectivity and sub-marine cable connectivity.

To further enhance the AIM 2015, the Mid-Term Review of the AIM 2015 - an initiative managed by Singapore - is underway to review the planned initiatives of the AIM 2015, as well as to take stock of the implementation status and the outcomes in order to develop Key Performance Indicators to track the AIM 2015 implementation.

ASEAN ICT cooperation with its Dialogue Partners and the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) continues to grow. Cooperation with China, Japan, the Republic of Korea, India, the European Union and ITU has reached new highs, covering new technology trends such as broadband communications, ICT for Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs), information security, exchange on spectrum planning and harmonisation related to DTV transition and ICT for disaster management.■

ASEAN Transport Ministers Meeting (ATM)	
Established:	1996. Meets annually.
Last Meeting:	18th ATM Meeting, 29 November 2012, Bali, Indonesia.
Senior Officials:	ASEAN Senior Transport Officials' Meeting (STOM).

ASEAN transport cooperation has witnessed significant developments over the past year. Progress has been

made in the implementation of ASEAN transport agreements and transport strategic actions under AEC Blueprint, Master Plan on ASEAN Connectivity and ASEAN Strategic Transport Plan/Brunei Action Plan. On air transport cooperation, work on the establishment of the ASEAN Single Aviation Market is progressing well and ties reached another important milestone with the endorsement of the vision and objectives of the Air Traffic Management Harmonization by ASEAN Transport Ministers. This initiative envisages ASEAN airspace as a seamless block in Asia-Pacific.

In maritime transport cooperation, initial work to establish an integrated, efficient and competitive maritime transport system has seen substantial progress with the completion of the Study on Formulating an ASEAN Single Shipping Market Implementing Strategy and the Master Plan and Feasibility Study on the Establishment of an ASEAN RO-RO Shipping Network and Short Sea Shipping. Additionally, an ASEAN-wide cooperation arrangement on oil spill response is being considered by ASEAN Member States.

Recognising the importance of cooperation among the search and rescue (SAR)-related institutions in conducting efficient SAR operations, an ASEAN Transport SAR Forum was established by ASEAN Transport Ministers. The Forum has embarked on the consideration of ASEAN Joint SAR Exercise Work Plan for 2014-2015 and the review of existing ASEAN SAR agreements: The 1972 Agreement for the Facilitation of Search for Aircrafts in Distress and Rescue of Survivors of Aircraft Accident and the 1975 Agreement for the Facilitation of Search and Rescue of Survivors of Ship Accidents.

Noting the potential impacts of transport facilitation agreements on the movement of people, goods and services in the region, Transport Ministers welcomed the initiative to facilitate seamless movement of people in the region. The draft ASEAN Framework Agreement on Cross Border Transport of Passenger (ASEAN CBTP) will be considered by an Expert Group Meeting which will look into the simplification and harmonisation of transport procedures to facilitate cross border road transport of people between and among ASEAN Member States.

Transport collaboration with Dialogue Partners continues to make headway. The Protocol 2 of the ASEAN-China Air Transport Agreement has concluded and cooperation with Japan has intensified through the endorsement of some new initiatives under ASEAN-Japan Transport Partnership. This boost in cooperation was marked with the completion and launch of the "Best Approaches Book", a collection of successful experiences and stories of environmental transport policies in ASEAN and Japan. Cooperation with ROK focuses on the discussion on an ASEAN-ROK Air Services Agreement and the implementation of projects under the ASEAN-ROK Transport Cooperation Framework. Transport cooperation with the EU has also been stepped up through the on-going EU-ASEAN Air Transport Integration Project (AATIP) and "ASEAN Regional Integration Support from the EU" (ARISE) Programme.■

Meeting of the ASEAN Tourism Ministers (M-ATM)	
Established:	1996. Meets annually.
Last Meeting:	16th M-ATM, 20 January 2013, Vientiane, Lao PDR.
Senior Officials:	Meeting of the ASEAN National Tourism Organisations (NTOs).

In 2012, tourism in ASEAN continued to increase with over 89 million visitors, accounting for 9.6 percent of the region's growth. Intra-ASEAN travel remained the major source market for ASEAN tourism, standing at 43 percent.

The implementation of the ASEAN Tourism Strategic Plan (ATSP) 2011-2015 has shown significant progress. 27 measures for 2011 and 2012 have been duly completed. The implementation of the MRA on Tourism Professionals – a program to improve the quality of services – is a key tourism initiative for the ASEAN. It will support the establishment of the AEC 2015. In the development of Toolboxes for Priority Tourism Labor Divisions, 46 toolboxes covering units for generic competencies and specific units for Housekeeping Division have been completed and are available for public use. The implementation of MRA has been further advanced by the completion of training for 27

ASEAN Tourism Master Trainers and 30 ASEAN Tourism Master Assessors. All Member States are encouraged to train more Master Trainers and Master Assessors to ensure the smooth implementation of MRA on Tourism Professionals. A Regional Secretariat for ASEAN Tourism Professionals to provide effective facilitation and monitoring support for the implementation of the MRA on Tourism Professionals will be established in 2014.

In an effort to enhance the regional tourism sector's competitiveness, attractiveness and sustainability, the development of ASEAN Public Toilet, ASEAN Clean Tourist City, ASEAN Green Hotel, ASEAN Spa Service and ASEAN Homestay Standards have made significant progress. Numerous capacity building programmes for ASEAN Member States have been undertaken under ASEAN Tourism Resource Management and Development Network (ATRM).

More activities have been undertaken to implement the ASEAN Tourism Marketing Strategy (ATMS) 2012-2015 and to build better worldwide recognition of ASEAN as a single tourism destination. The "ASEAN for ASEAN" campaign, including a new ASEAN tourism website (www.aseantourism.travel), were launched by the body's Tourism Ministers during the 16th M-ATM in January 2013. The aim is to better promote intra-ASEAN travel through organizing travel/tourism fairs, seminars, conferences and other activities.

ASEAN tourism cooperation with Dialogue Partners continues to be strengthened through numerous joint promotional activities. These activities focus on tourism promotion, participation in major travel fairs and capacity building. A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between ASEAN and India on Strengthening Tourism Cooperation was signed in January 2012.■

ASEAN Mekong Basin Development Cooperation (AMBDC)	
Established:	1996. Meets annually.
Last Meeting:	14th Meeting of the Steering Committee on the ASEAN-Mekong Basin Development Cooperation, 20 July 2012, Chiang Rai, Thailand.
Senior Officials:	AMBDC Steering Committee Meeting.

The ASEAN Mekong Basin Development Cooperation was established to promote economic integration among Member Countries, thus helping to build the AEC by 2015. The cooperation framework has contributed to the development of infrastructure and human capital in the sub-region and enabled the sharing of the resource base between ASEAN Member States and Mekong riparian countries and with China, while promoting inclusive and equitable growth in the region. It has also led to international recognition of the sub-region as a growth area. The emergence of growth areas such as the Mekong Basin has underscored increasing interactions and linkages beyond national boundaries, injecting dynamism into the region.

At the 14th Ministerial Meeting of AMBDC in 2012, Ministers from ASEAN and China expressed the importance of strengthening economic partnerships in the cooperation to promote and sustain development of the Mekong Basin.

The Meeting noted 52 projects under the cooperation, with a total of 14 still requiring funding. Ministers recognised that mobilising finance for activities remains a matter of priority and a challenge for all. They emphasised the

importance of collaborating with development agencies and the private sector to finance various in-country projects, as well as other cross-border platforms. Apart from ASEAN's Dialogue Partners, Ministers underscored the importance of inviting support from other ASEAN countries in the projects of the AMBDC where assistance can be rendered in the form of capacity building and training.

China reported on the completion of the Yuxi-Mengzi Railway which is part of the eastern line of the planned Pan-Asia Railway network, funded by the Ministry of Railways and the Yunnan Government. The railway is expected to boost land transportation between China and ASEAN countries, as well as bring both economies closer.

The Singapore-Kunming Rail Link (SKRL), the flagship project of the AMBDC, is expected to provide an alternative mode of land transportation, connecting AMBDC's riparian and non-riparian states. At the 14th Special Work Group Meeting on the SKRL held in 2012 in Vientiane, members briefed each other on the progress of the design and construction of various segments of the SKRL. Progress of the SKRL is related to measures entailed in the Brunei Action Plan and the Master Plan on ASEAN Connectivity. Discussions on formulating a strategy for the seamless operation of the SKRL, ways to mobilise further financial resources for SKRL's completion, and the possibility of extending the SRKL to Surabaya, Indonesia have been undertaken.

The AMBDC is an important framework, helping to enhance and sustain growth of the Mekong Basin. It also serves as a policy dialogue for ASEAN and China to help foster sub-regional economic development and poverty reduction cooperation.■

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ASEAN
Socio-Cultural Community (ASCC)

Introduction of ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community (ASCC)

The ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community heads into 2013 with a commitment to accelerate the implementation of the ASCC Blueprint, to contribute to the ASCC community building by 2015. A Mid-Term Review of the ASCC Blueprint is ongoing since May 2013 and expected to be completed by September 2013, with Brunei Darussalam as ASEAN Chair providing financial support for the regional component of the study. All of the ASCC's constituent sectoral bodies and entities have been mobilised to assess their individual and collective progress as part of a wider exercise to conduct the Mid-Term Review of the ASCC Blueprint. Supported by regional and national assessments, the MTR will examine the ASCC Blueprint and its achievements in implementing the ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community goals. It will also provide recommendations to further enhance its activities and mechanisms to ensure the effective contribution of the ASCC towards the realisation of an ASEAN Community by 2015.

The annual implementation-focussed monitoring report on the ASCC Blueprint shows that out of the 339 actions, about 86% (or 293 out of the 339) of the total ASCC actions have been (or currently being) addressed through the implementation of various activities. More specifically, the community has completed 17 action lines, with 264 ongoing action lines and 58 action lines that are still pending/not implemented/no information. The highest number of completed actions can be found under the characteristics of (1) Ensuring Environmental Sustainability, (2) Social Justice and Human Rights, and (3) Social Welfare and Protection. The highest number of ongoing actions are in the Social Welfare and Protection, Ensuring Environmental Sustainability and Human Development Characteristics. The ASCC Community has been able to gauge progress of implementation for each particular Characteristic of the ASCC Blueprint, which helps to highlight the areas where we need to focus our efforts.

Efforts to build an effective governance framework and coordination mechanism to strengthen cooperation between pillars and leverage multi-sector partnerships, remains an important priority in the ASCC Community. Lively consultations and discussions have taken place on how to address cross-cutting issues such as climate change; disaster management; energy and food Security; emerging infectious diseases; poverty alleviation; and financial crises.

Resource mobilisation remains a core concern of the ASCC. It has examined opportunities for internal resources, including exploring the role of traditional sources of funding, such as the ASEAN Development Fund. Since the adoption of the ASCC Blueprint in March 2009, the ASCC has been supported through resources contributed by ASEAN Dialogue Partners who have funded some 87 completed projects and a number of projects in various stages of implementation. Strengthening cooperation with the Dialogue Partners, development partners and non-traditional actors in the

Celebrating the ASEAN Day.

programmes and activities of the ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community pillar is an important strategic focus in addressing resource mobilisation.

The ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community pillar also recorded progress in its sectoral work. Key initiatives in the education sector, such as the ASEAN Curriculum Sourcebook and development of the ASEAN Studies Course for under graduate students, have been put in place.

On the health and communicable diseases front, an ASEAN Work Plan on Malaria was drafted to follow up on the 7th EAS Declaration on Regional Responses to Malaria Control and Addressing Resistance to Anti-Malarial Medicines adopted in November last year. Follow-up activities are being conducted in 13 areas and cities among AMS. This is part of localised efforts to implement the ASEAN Declaration of Commitment on HIV and AIDS through the ASEAN Cities Getting to Zeros Project. Priority initiatives were also articulated during the 11th ASEAN Health Ministers' Meeting in July 2012 on Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs). Prevention and advocacy efforts focus on the promotion of healthy lifestyles and dealing with diabetes and obesity. The First Regional Forum on NCDs will be hosted by Philippines in September 2013.

Operational since 17 November, 2011, the ASEAN Coordinating Centre for Humanitarian Assistance (AHA Centre) has demonstrated its value to regional disaster resilience. An ASEAN stockpile of relief items was drawn up for the first time following the 11 November 2012 earthquake in Myanmar and the Philippines, in December 2012.

The ASEAN Action Plan on Joint Response to Climate Change was adopted by the 12th ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Environment held on 26 September 2012. The ASEAN Leaders' Statement on Joint Response to Climate Change issued in 2010 was implemented at this time. The plan to build a Disaster Resilient ASEAN is not limited to prioritising emergency response, strong disaster management systems and risk reduction but increasingly, about linking environmentally sustainable livelihoods and adapting to climate change. This year the ASCC is focusing on developing a stronger strategic framework in disaster management and climate change. The drafting of the ASEAN instrument on the protection and promotion of the rights of migrant workers is ongoing. It is expected to be finalised by the end of 2014.

Regional integration that focuses on vulnerable groups such as women, children, the elderly, persons with disabilities and migrant workers is being addressed. The ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community is working to develop a regional framework in support of the objective of improving the quality, coverage and sustainability of social protection and increased capacity of social risk management.

An impetus to highlight the challenges and opportunities facing ASEAN's Youth and their contribution to economic development is a priority this year. This initiative highlights the key role youth will play in ensuring the development and sustainability of the region. As part of this year's initiatives, a regional youth volunteer corps has been established. It recognises the potential of young professionals to boost ASEAN solidarity though voluntary community services in areas such as rural development, disaster relief, health, education and the environment along with support for people with disabilities and the fostering of entrepreneurial skills.

ASEAN is committed to combating violence against women and children and in assisting victims through protection, services, rehabilitation, recovery and reintegration. Among ongoing initiatives to highlight these issues are those of the ASEAN Commission on the Promotion and Protection of the Rights of Women and Children (ACWC). The Commission promotes public awareness through an annual public campaign to stop violence against women and children, compiles country best practices in preventing and combating violence against women and children and develops guidelines for a non-violent approach to child rearing and child caring in various settings. It is also drafting an ASEAN Declaration on the Elimination of Violence Against Women and Children.

The inclusion of sports will be a priority in 2013. This year has been designated the "ASEAN Sports Industry Year". This initiative seeks to engage the private sector in sports and related activities not only to promote healthier lifestyles among our people as we move towards the ASEAN Community in 2015, but also to help build a stronger regional identity.■

ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community Council (ASCC)	
Established:	7 October 2003, Bali Concord II (ASCC community defined and established); 20 November 2007, ASEAN Charter signing on 20 November 2007 (defined inter alia the ASCC Council); Adoption of ASCC Blueprint, 14th ASEAN Summit, 1 March 2009, Thailand.
Last Meeting:	24 March 2013, Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei Darussalam.
Senior Officials:	Senior Officials' Committee on the ASCC (SOCA).

The 9th ASCC Council was held on 23-24 March 2013 in Brunei Darussalam. Progress on the implementation of the ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community (ASCC) Blueprint since the 21st ASEAN Summit in PhnomPenh, Cambodia in November 2012, was reviewed at this time. The Council Meeting was held back to back with the 14th Senior Officials Committee for ASCC (SOCA) Meeting. ASEAN Member States (AMS) reported on their respective national efforts in the ASCC pillar to underscore the regional commitment to ASEAN Community building and fulfilling the desired Strategic Objectives, articulated in the ASCC Blueprint. The Meeting also noted intensified efforts among AMS to collaborate across sectors on crosscutting issues, inclusiveness of ASEAN policy and programme development through engagement of various stakeholders in the processes and greater efforts to promote ASEAN awareness. The Council also reviewed and adopted the priority areas for the notation of leaders during the 22nd ASEAN Summit.

Consistent with the ASEAN Chair's theme "Our People, Our Future Together", the ASCC Council shared the belief that ASEAN should continue to put the highest priority to its peoples. With this in mind, the following priority areas will be highlighted in 2013:

Youth: The formation of an ASEAN Young Professionals Volunteer Corps (AYPVC) to complement the ASEAN Youth Volunteers Programme (AYVP) Initiatives on Youth Entrepreneurship as well as Japan-East Asia Network of Exchange for Students and Youths (JENESYS 2.0) programme under the same priority area.

Culture: Cultural activities such as ASEAN Cultural Festival, ASEAN Quiz, ASEAN Arts Exhibition, ASEAN Cultural Promotion and the publication of the Coffee Table Book on ASEAN Wonders, including a number of national initiatives related to culture as well as the regional initiative, the Flagship Project: ASEAN Cultural Expressions in support of the Declaration on ASEAN Unity in Cultural Diversity: Towards Strengthening ASEAN Community.

Sports: Activities to complement ASEAN Sports Industry Year 2013, including individual national activities to support the ASEAN Sports Industry Year 2013.

Education: Enhancing the Qualification Framework, Quality Assurance and enhanced intra-ASEAN students' mobility, as well as related cross-sectoral initiatives on Qualification Framework and pending programmes initiated by SEAMEO as well as the EU under its ASEAN-EU Multi-Annual Indicative Programme (EU-MIP).

Disaster Management and Climate Change: Inclusion of Disaster Management and Climate Change, and approaches to strengthen advocacy in this area.

The ASCC will also be focusing on finding practical approaches and effective mechanisms to coordinate efforts through strong regional-national cooperation as well as the identification of cross-cutting issues and cross-sectoral initiatives, including, but not limited to education, environment, health, women, children and youth engagement, disaster management, and culture, which are aimed at raising the level of awareness ASEAN among its citizens and contributing to our vision of an ASEAN Community by 2015.

The ASCC Council established a Working Group under the guidance of the SOCA and with the support of ASEAN Secretariat, to study the feasibility of the establishment of an ASCC Fund.

The Working Group will be activated on the outcome of the MTR exercise which will help to better assess the status of the implementation of the ASCC Blueprint and the challenges faced by the sectoral bodies.■

ASEAN Ministers Responsible for Information (AMRI)	
Established:	1989. Meets once every two years.
Last Meeting:	11th Conference of the AMRI (11th AMRI), 1 March 2012, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.
Senior Officials:	Senior Officials' Meeting Responsible for Information (SOMRI).

ASEAN cooperation in the area of media, information and broadcasting focuses on promoting the ASEAN awareness, bridging the diversity of cultures, enhancing media capacity to reach out and understand the aspirations and the concerns of the people of ASEAN and contribute to community-building efforts in the region.

ASEAN has long-standing collaborations and is involved with many important initiatives on the national and regional level. They include: The ASEAN TV News Exchange (ATN); the ASEAN in Action (AiA); and the ASEAN Quiz. Such programs have proven successful in continuing to educate and expose ASEAN people to the developments taking place in the region.

In recognition of the importance of content to target audiences, the ASEAN Committee on Culture and Information's (COCI) website (http://cultureandinformation.asean.org/coci) is being reviewed in conjunction with the development of ASEAN Virtual Learning Centres (AVLRC) to provide more compelling content to more audiences, and to ensure that our programs and activities remain relevant in the community building process.

People-to-people exchange activities in film and human resource development for media are ongoing between ASEAN and Dialogue Partners China, the Republic of Korea and India. For example, a Festival of Film and TV between ASEAN and China and a joint production of television documentary programs with Japan are in the pipeline for implementation in 2013.

ASEAN Member States have been pursuing cooperation on digital broadcasting since 2004 with an aim to achieve the analogue switch-off from 2015 through to 2020. The "Guidelines for ASEAN Digital Switch-Over" which will support Member States in their transition towards digital broadcasting, have been developed and were endorsed by the ASEAN Ministers Responsible for Information at their meeting in March 2012. To realise the Guidelines, discussions with ASEAN Telecommunication Regulators' Council on spectrum management for digital broadcasting and a pilot program on joint production of a television programme titled "Colours of ASEAN" are expected to be rolled out later this year.■

ASEAN Ministers Responsible for Culture and Arts (AMCA)	
Established:	2003. Meets once every two years.
Last Meeting:	5th AMCA Meeting, Singapore, 24-25 May 2012.
Senior Officials	Senior Officials' Meeting for Culture and Arts.

ASEAN continues to enhance cooperation in the areas of culture and the arts through various initiatives to promote and celebrate the rich and diverse cultures of the people of ASEAN while also reflecting ASEAN's shared history towards building an ASEAN identity and ASEAN awareness.

The Ministers agreed to enhance ASEAN cooperation in the areas of culture and the arts focusing on human resources development, protection and promotion of ASEAN cultural heritage and the development of small and medium-sized cultural enterprises, including creative industry projects.

The Ministers also agreed there is a need to focus on youth involvement in culture through different platforms, be it new and social media, cultural volunteering, cultural entrepreneurship or people-to-people exchanges and connectivity programmes.

To raise awareness of the organisation in the region, various activities like the Best of ASEAN Performing Arts, a series of cultural events showcasing the richness and diversity of performing arts in the region, have been hosted.

The 5th AMCA highlighted the contribution of culture and the arts in the implementation of the ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community Blueprint and the Master Plan on

ASEAN Connectivity, all of which are important enablers to building an ASEAN Community by 2015.

The ASEAN Committee on Culture and Information (COCI), under the direction of AMCA, has agreed to implement a flagship project entitled "Festival of ASEAN Cultural Expressions 2013-2015" to realise the "Declaration on ASEAN Unity in Cultural Diversity: Towards Strengthening ASEAN Community 2015".

Singapore, as the current Chair of AMCA, has been designated as the ASEAN City of Culture for 2012-2013. The ASEAN City of Culture initiative was established to strengthen the ASEAN identity and raise the profile of ASEAN in the region and internationally. It also creates a platform to celebrate ASEAN arts and culture, promote the growth of the region's creative industries and grow people-to-people engagement.

Steady progress has been made in the engagement of the ASEAN Dialogue Partners and the Plus Three Countries in the areas of culture and the arts. This includes: The endorsement of the ASEAN Plus Three Work Plan containing concrete programmes and projects to steer cultural cooperation between ASEAN Member States and the Plus Three Countries.

Other activities ASEAN and its Dialogue Partners are engaging include: The establishment of the first AMCA+China Meeting where the Ministers of ASEAN and China agreed on the proposed priority areas and modalities articulated in the Concept Paper on ASEAN-China Cooperation on Culture and the Arts. The "Work Plan on ASEAN + China Cooperation in Culture and Arts" is also being developed to identify and address common concerns in the areas of culture and the arts, as well as to enhance cooperation in the field of culture through the establishment of a network of experts, both tangible and intangible.

Another significant achievement is the completion of the ASEAN Guidebook on Cultural Mapping in 2013. This is a joint publication of AusHeritage and the ASEAN-COCI providing a relevant tool to support ASEAN community building efforts. This Guidebook will catalyse further interest and action in mapping cultures in ASEAN, and envision that its uptake will contribute to achieving greater regional understanding and cooperation, not only throughout ASEAN but also in the wider Asia-Pacific context.■

ASEAN Education Ministers Meeting (ASED)	
Established:	2006. Meets biennially.
Last Meeting:	7th ASED Meeting, 4 July 2012, Yogyakarta, Indonesia.
Senior Officials:	Senior Officials' Meeting on Education (SOM-ED).

Following the endorsement of the ASEAN Five-Year Work Plan on Education (2011-2015), the education sector in ASEAN has implemented a number of initiatives covering four strategic priorities: (i) raising ASEAN awareness among the ASEAN citizens particularly the youths; (ii) promoting education access and quality particularly for those living in under privileged and marginalised areas; (iii) promoting greater people-to-people connectivity through scholarships and student-faculty exchanges; and (iv) increasing the competitiveness of the region and its people. These initiatives are being pursued through the ASEAN University Network (AUN), in collaboration with the Southeast Asian Ministers of Education Organization (SEAMEO), development agencies, civil society organisations and the private sector.

2012 marked the second year of ASEAN's 5-Year Work Plan on Education (2011-2015). A number of significant materials were delivered, including: The launch of the ASEAN Curriculum Sourcebook; the development of the ASEAN Studies Course for undergraduate students; and a growing number of cooperation frameworks with ASEAN Dialogue Partners such as the ASEAN Plus Three and the East Asia Summit (EAS).

With regards to the higher education sector, more effort is being made to nurture flexible policies to support the mobility of students, researchers and teachers within ASEAN and beyond. A good example of this is the AUN ASEAN Credit Transfer System (ACTS) which is now available online.

2012 was a good year for cooperation between ASEAN and our Dialogue Partners. We have seen lively

discussions, exchange of ideas and subsequent project and programme development between ASEAN and Australia, New Zealand, the European Union, Japan, and the United States of America, among others, on many areas, including basic education, quality assurance and qualification framework, and the mobility of students and teachers.

The EU and ASEAN are working on the 5-year "European Union Support to Higher Education in ASEAN Region (EU SHARE)" program that will help institutions in ASEAN to develop regional higher education frameworks of quality assurance, qualification frameworks and credit transfer. These frameworks will contribute to mutual recognition, enhance quality, regional competitiveness and internationalise higher education institutions in the region.

A draft of Terms of Reference (TOR) for the "Working Group on Mobility of Higher Education and Ensuring Quality Assurance of Higher Education among ASEAN Plus Three Countries" is also being developed to strengthen and facilitate policy dialogue, coordination, collaboration and the promotion of quality assurance. The mobility of higher education among ASEAN Plus Three countries will also be addressed. Specifically, the Working Group will look at issues such as strategies and activities related to development of the credit transfer system and the harmonisation of academic standards in the ASEAN Plus Three Plan of Action on Education: 2010-2017.■

ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Disaster Management (AMMDM)	
Established:	2004. Meets as necessary.
Last Meeting:	1st AMMDM, 7 December 2004, Phnom Penh, Cambodia.
Senior Officials:	ASEAN Committee on Disaster Management (ACDM).

Following the establishment of the ASEAN Coordinating Centre for Humanitarian Assistance (AHA Centre) on 17 November 2011 at the 19th ASEAN Summit, the AHA Centre marked its first anniversary with the launch of the ASEAN Disaster Emergency Logistic System through the establishment of the ASEAN stockpile at the UN Humanitarian Response Depot of the World Food Programme in Subang, Malaysia. The stockpile, supported by the Government Japan through the Japan-ASEAN Integration Fund (JAIF), allowed the AHA Centre to mount its first ever ground-based humanitarian response to the 6.8 magnitude earthquake on 11 November 2012 that affected over 6,000 people in the Mandalay and Sagaing regions of Myanmar and Typhoon Bopha that hit Mindanao in the Philippines in December 2012. For the first time, the AHA Centre also utilised the ASEAN Disaster Management and Emergency Relief (ADMER) Fund, a funding facility established in March 2012, to support disaster-relief operations in the region. The operationalisation of AHA Centre, marked through actual responses on the ground, is a significant effort towards realising a more disaster-resilient community in the region.

Disaster management remains one of the key portfolios in ASEAN and an issue that cuts across the three pillars of ASEAN. In relation to this, the 17th ASEAN Finance Ministers' Meeting in April 2013 in Brunei Darussalam recognised the importance of the ASEAN Strategy on Disaster Risk Financing and Insurance (DRFI) and endorsed the establishment of the ASEAN Cross- Sectoral Coordination Committee on DRFI whereby the finance, insurance and disaster management sectors will collaborate closely to further implement the ASEAN DRFI Roadmap.

In recent years, disaster management has also become a priority area of cooperation among ASEAN, its Dialogue Partners and others, including civil society. The significance of the disaster management portfolio in ASEAN is reflected through the proliferation of disaster relief exercises initiated by other mechanisms related to ASEAN, that is, the East Asia Summit (EAS), the ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting (ADMM) Plus and the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF). This year there will be three major exercises initiated by these mechanisms in addition to the 6th ASEAN Regional Disaster Emergency Response Simulation Exercise (ARDEX) scheduled to take place in October 2013 in Viet Nam.

At the 21st ASEAN Summit in November 2012, ASEAN Leaders reiterated the importance of using existing ASEAN mechanisms, in particular the Conference of the Parties (COP) under the ASEAN Agreement on Disaster Management and Emergency Response (AADMER), the

ASEAN Committee on Disaster Management (ACDM) and the AHA Centre, as platforms for coordination and cooperation on disaster management in the region. It is therefore expected other ASEAN-related mechanisms will build on efforts established under the AADMER to ensure they complement ASEAN's arrangements and bring comparative advantages to the objective of AADMER in reducing disaster losses throughout the region.■

ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on the Environment (AMME)	
Established:	1981. Meets once every three years with annual informal meetings in between.
Last Meeting:	12th ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on the Environment (AMME), 24-28 September 2012, Bangkok, Thailand.
Senior Officials:	ASEAN Senior Officials on the Environment (ASOEN).

2012 marked the end of the implementation period for the ASEAN Environmental Education Action Plan (AEEAP) 2008-2012. A successor plan is being formulated.

The ASEAN Guidelines on Eco-schools, which were endorsed by the ASEAN Environment Ministers in 2011, was used as a reference to select and confer the inaugural ASEAN Eco-schools Award to schools in ASEAN Member States in 2012. This award recognises exemplary efforts of eco-schools in AMS to include environmental awareness in every aspect of education for their students and surrounding communities.

Thailand and Malaysia have ratified the Agreement on the Establishment of the ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity on 19 February 2013 and 29 April 2013 respectively, making them the seventh and eighth ASEAN Member State following the Philippines, Viet Nam, Brunei Darussalam, Lao PDR, Singapore and Myanmar to do so. Cambodia and Indonesia are encouraged to ratify the Agreement as soon as possible.

The ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity (ACB) continues to implement the Expanded Taxonomic Capacity Building and Governance for the Sustainable Use of Biodiversity Project (2012-2013) and the Biodiversity and Climate Change Project (2012-2015) with support from the Japan-ASEAN Integration Fund and the Federal Republic of Germany through GIZ, respectively.

An ASEAN Action Plan on Joint Response to Climate Change was adopted by the 12th ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Environment held on 26 September 2012, to implement the ASEAN Leaders' Statement on Joint Response to Climate Change issued at the 16th ASEAN Summit in 2010. A Partners Consultation Meeting was held on 26 March 2013 in Siem Reap, Cambodia, to explore potential collaboration with Dialogue Partners and regional and international organisations to implement the Action Plan.

As the implementation period of the ASEAN-China Environmental Cooperation Action Plan 2011-2013 ends this year, the Seminar on ASEAN-China Environmental Cooperation: Review and Prospect was held on 17-18 April 2013 to review the implementation of the Action Plan and prepare for the development of ASEAN-China Environmental Cooperation Action Plan II. The Action Plans are developed to implement China-ASEAN Strategy on Environmental Protection Cooperation 2009-2015 which was adopted by ASEAN and China in 2009.

The ASEAN Eco Model Cities Programme was implemented from April 2011 to March 2012 in 14 cities of AMS to promote the development of environmentally sustainable cities by strengthening national frameworks and building the capacity of local governments. The proposed Year 2 program will have an expanded modality to encourage the participation of other East Asian countries and cities.

The Clean Air for Smaller Cities Project (Phase 1) with funding of EUR 2.5 million from the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany was implemented from January 2009 to December 2012. The Project involves 14 cities in seven ASEAN Member States (AMS). The Project aims to enhance the capacity of smaller and medium-sized cities to develop and implement measures to improve their air quality, and therefore, to contribute to sustainable city development. Phase 2 of the Project (2013–2015) is being reviewed by Committee of Permanent Representatives to ASEAN (CPR).■

Conference of the Parties (COP) to the ASEAN Agreement on Transboundary Haze Pollution	
Established:	2003. Meets at least once every year.
Last Meeting:	COP-8, 26 September 2012, Bangkok, Thailand.
Senior Officials:	Committee under COP to the ASEAN Agreement on Transboundary Haze Pollution.

In 2012 the region experienced increased forest fires, leading to transboundary haze pollution. From February to April 2013, the northern ASEAN region was affected by smoke haze from land and forest fires in the Mekong Sub-Region. PM10 concentrations exceeded national standards and reached unhealthy levels in districts of northern Thailand. In the southern ASEAN region, hotspots were generally subdued due to wet weather conditions during this period.

At the 21st ASEAN Summit, Leaders noted the usefulness of and encouraged the development of the ASEAN-wide Fire Danger Rating System (FDRS), which provides early warning on potential fire occurrences that would enable preparedness and preventive actions during dry weather periods. The FDRS is a useful complement to the weather and hotspot monitoring being done by the ASEAN Specialised Meteorological Centre (ASMC). An FDRS enhancement programme including the upgrade of software and training workshops for relevant technical officials from AMS, will be implemented in 2013.

The Sub-Regional Ministerial Steering Committee on Transboundary Haze Pollution (MSC) (comprising Brunei Darussalam, Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore and Thailand) acknowledged the availability of technologies that enable MSC Member States to enhance hotspot monitoring including the critical role of using digital geo-referenced concession maps in efforts to hold plantation companies and land owners responsible. The MSC agreed to form an MSC Technical Task Force (MTTF) to develop a fire monitoring platform among MSC countries. The MTTF met for the first time in February 2013 and agreed on a Plan of Action to develop a fire monitoring platform for MSC countries which includes the development of a web-based application displaying multiple sources of hotspot data, satellite imagery and maps on the Google Earth visualisation platform, provision of geo-referenced land-use maps for fire-prone areas, and a pilot trial of the web-based application.

Good progress has been made by the ASEAN Peatland Forest Project (APFP) and associated SEApeat project, undertaken with financial support from the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and European Union (EU), respectively. These projects support the implementation of the ASEAN Peatland Management Strategy 2006- 2020 and the National Action Plans on Peatlands, as well as to showcase practical measures for peatland management at pilot sites in Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines and Viet Nam. Ministers noted positive assessment of the projects through independent mid-term reviews. The Ministers supported the development of a second phase of activities after the completion of the first phase in 2014, as recommended by the mid-term reviews.■

ASEAN Health Ministers Meeting (AHMM)	
Established:	1980. Meets once every two years.
Last Meeting:	11th AHMM, 2-6 July 2012, Phuket, Thailand and other related Meetings with Plus Three and with China.
Senior Officials:	Senior Officials' Meeting on Health Development (SOMHD).

Localisation of the ASEAN Declaration of Commitment ("Getting to Zeros"): After its adoption at the 19th ASEAN Summit in November 2011, an ASEAN Getting to Zero Project was initiated by Indonesia to localise practical and doable activities with 13 areas and cities among eight ASEAN Member States. These utilise the Assessment and Planning Tool to facilitate localised action on HIV and AIDS. These sites will be the practical community realisation of the targets of "Getting to Zeros".

Joint Statements of the 11th AHMM, 5th APTHMM and 4th ACHMM: Ministerial Health Meetings conducted last July in Phuket, Thailand, articulated the priority areas

under the Thailand Chairmanship are: Universal Health Coverage, Non-Communicable Diseases, Drug-resistant Malaria, Emerging Infectious Diseases, HIV and AIDS, as well as pandemics. Issues on NCDs – especially tobacco control – were discussed during the Ministerial Retreat. SOMHD was tasked with following up on these matters.

Artemisinin-Resistant Malaria Initiative: As a result of informal consultations with the World Health Organisation and development partners, AEGCD and AWGDP, the 11th AHMM list this as a priority health initiative in its Joint Statement. The East Asia Summit declaration on this issue of concern was adopted in November 2012. A Work Plan on Malaria Initiatives was also developed by Myanmar.

Joint Collaboration: On High-Level Consultative Meeting with SOMHD and SOM-AMAF: Related to "Integrating Nutrition into ASEAN Integrated Food Security Framework and its Strategic Plan of Action for Food Security", a set of recommendations focused on information sharing, advocacy, policy support and capacity building was finalised in January this year. Respective endorsements will be sought during the scheduled annual meeting. On ASWGL and AEGCD: This was conducted in November 2012 to intensify practical collaborations between animal health and human health sectors.

Universal Health Coverage Workshop: As articulated in the 5th ASEAN Plus Three Health Ministers Meeting in July 2012, a consultative meeting last December 2012 was conducted to finalise the Terms of Reference of the UHC Plus Three Network and it Steering Committee. Focal points have been identified from AMS and Plus Three Countries. SOMHD endorsement has been provided to the TOR.

Multi-sector and Multi-stakeholder Consultative Meeting on the Impacts of Pandemics: This activity was led by the Philippines with the AWGPPR and other non-health sectors and development partners. The Framework on a Regional Mechanism in Responding to the Impacts of Pandemics was improved with inputs from non-disaster management and non-health sectors. An interim arrangement, proposed by the Philippines for this mechanism, was discussed. Follow-up for relevant sectoral inputs are ongoing.

Migrants' Health and Increased Access to Health Services: A consultative workshop was led by Indonesia in June 2012 and it produced outcome documents on the plan of action, terms of reference related to the focus areas and a set of recommendations to move forward. The 7th SOMHD has been tasked with discussing these documents in August this year.■

ASEAN Labour Ministers Meeting (ALMM)	
Established:	1975. Meets once every two years.
Last Meeting:	22nd ALMM, 10 May 2012, Phnom Penh, Cambodia.
Senior Officials:	ASEAN Senior Labour Officials' Meeting (SLOM).

Implementation of the ASEAN Labour Ministers' Work Programme (2010-2015) is ongoing through various projects and activities aimed at promoting workforce competitiveness, progressive labour practices, occupational health and safety and promoting decent work for all, including migrant labour. Led by Viet Nam, Cambodia, Myanmar and Lao PDR, the comparative study on labour laws in ASEAN Member States has been completed and is ready to be published. The ASEAN Occupational Safety and Health Network (OSHNET) Scorecard was adopted by SLOM in May 2013 to enable ASEAN Member States in tracking progress and identify gaps and needs in promoting occupational safety and health performance. The ASEAN OSHNET continues to promote occupational safety and health profile in the region.

Efforts to promote workforce competitiveness and mobility continue. Skilled workers in more than 20 occupational areas from ASEAN Member States competed at the 9th ASEAN Skills Competition on 11-20 November 2012 in Jakarta, Indonesia. The development of an ASEAN Qualification Reference Framework is ongoing with the involvement of trade in services, labour and education sectors. The Forum on Increased Mobility of Skilled Labour in ASEAN in June 2012 and the Capacity Building Workshop: Towards a Mutual Recognition on Skills for ASEAN in December 2012 in Bangkok, Thailand provided the platforms for labour officials to discuss the development and effective implementation of a national skills frameworks.

Recognising that effective resolution of employment disputes is a key factor in building a successful industrial relations system, an ASEAN Workshop on Resolving Employment Disputes: Approaches and Mechanisms was held in February 2013 in Singapore. In the area of social security, an ASEAN Workshop on Extending Social Insurance to the Self or Informally Employed was held in November 2012 in Brunei Darussalam.

The labour officials, employers' and employees' organisations, as well as civil society discussed recruitment practices and regulations at the Fifth ASEAN Forum on Migrant Labour in October 2012 in Siem Reap, Cambodia. Migrant workers legislations and policies of ASEAN Member States were compiled and published. Taking a phased approach, the development of the ASEAN instrument on the protection and promotion of the rights of migrant workers is ongoing with finalisation expected by the end of 2014. A one week training was conducted in March 2013 in Bangkok, Thailand for ASEAN labour officials to enhance knowledge about, among others, labour immigration, emigration, recruitment, irregular migration and public-private partnerships. This training was supported by the ESRC Centre on Migration, Policy and Society (COMPAS) of the University of Oxford, International Labour Organization (ILO) and its International Training Centre (ITC-ILO).■

ASEAN Ministers Meeting on Rural and Poverty Eradication (AMRDPE)	
Established:	1997. Meets once every two years.
Last Meeting:	7th AMRDPE, 2 November 2011, Brunei Darussalam.
Senior Officials:	ASEAN Senior Officials' Meeting on Rural Development and Poverty Eradication (SOMRDPE).

Guided by the Framework Action Plan on Rural Development and Poverty Eradication (2011-2015) in 2011, initiatives to promote the involvement of communities and stakeholders in poverty reduction and rural development continue. Through the ASEAN+3 Youth Rural Activist Exchange Programme, young volunteers from four ASEAN Member States and China visited Pekalongan and Tasikmalaya cities in Indonesia in September 2012. They learned about the implementation and impact of Indonesia's national community empowerment programme (PNPM Mandiri) from local communities. Village leaders from ASEAN Member States and China exchanged experiences on community development programmes and were engaged in field visits at the ASEAN+3 Village Leaders Exchange Program in April 2013 in Chengdu, China.

SOMRDPE engaged in dialogue with non-governmental organisations for the first time at the Inaugural ASEAN Forum on Rural Development and Poverty Eradication in June 2012 in Da Nang, Viet Nam. Parties exchanged views on issues concerning food security, the livelihoods of farmers and poor communities and climate change adaptation. The ASEAN Leadership Awards on Rural Development and Poverty Eradication, developed last year, will be presented for the first time at the 8th AMRDPE in July 2013 in Indonesia. Non-governmental organisations with outstanding achievements and contributions to the poverty reduction and development of local communities have been nominated by ASEAN Member States for the Awards.

SOMRDPE identified in its Framework Action Plan several relevant sector bodies to cooperate with in undertaking regional efforts to reduce poverty and develop rural areas. A consultation meeting of SOMRDPE with the Senior Officials Meeting of ASEAN Ministers on Agriculture and Forestry (SOM-AMAF) took place in June 2012 and it identified projects and activities of mutual interest.

Acknowledging the great benefits of sharing good practices and experiences amongst ASEAN Member States, Thailand organised an ASEAN Regional Training Course in June 2012 to share its good practice of land management for rural development and poverty eradication.

Championed by SOMRDPE, the ASEAN Roadmap for the Attainment of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) was adopted in August 2012 after a series of consultations with relevant ASEAN sector bodies. As a follow-up action, the ASEAN Multi sectoral Workshop on MDGs was convened in July 2012 in Yangon, Myanmar. Nine ASEAN sector bodies working in the areas of poverty reduction, education, women, social welfare, health, environment, agriculture, statistics and development

planning, as well as various UN Agencies, discussed strategies to accelerate the MDGs attainment by 2015 and possible post-2015 priorities and challenges. A follow-up regional assessment of ASEAN Member States' progress, strategies and challenges in attaining the MDGs is being planned.■

ASEAN Ministerial Meeting for Social Welfare and Development (AMMSWD)	
Established:	1979. Meets once every three years.
Last Meeting:	7th AMMSWD, 25 November 2010, Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei Darussalam.
Senior Officials:	ASEAN Senior Officials' Meeting on Social Welfare and Development (SOMSWD).

Projects and activities planned in the Strategic Framework on Social Welfare and Development (2011-2015) continue to be implemented. Members of the ASEAN Social Work Consortium (ASWC) shared information and experiences in improving social work services for vulnerable groups at the Second Conference in December 2012. A Training Workshop was also convened in November 2012 to strengthen the capacities of communities, practitioners and policy makers to address violence against women. Complementing this, the SOMSWD discussed ways to promote the participation of male, youth and HIV and AIDS networks in preventing gender based violence at the ASEAN Regional Conference in November 2012 in Manila. To support better care and welfare of the elderly, the Philippines-led ASEAN Act (Active Ageing) Project is ongoing.

The Second ASEAN Children's Forum in June 2012 in Singapore witnessed the active participation of children from ASEAN Member States in voicing their aspirations and concerns over issues affecting their lives. A Seminar-Workshop was convened in July 2012 in Manila, the Philippines, to exchange views on ways to improve early child care, development and education systems in the region. To complement this, a regional workshop was convened in September 2012 in Bangkok, Thailand to share information and experiences in implementing the UN Convention on the Rights of Child (CRC). As part of its commitment towards a cyber pornography and cyber prostitution free Southeast Asia, two regional conferences were convened in June 2012 and April 2013 in Manila, the Philippines. Collaboration with police department and other relevant line ministries was explored for effective legal and policy response to combat cyber-pornography and cyber-prostitution in the region.

Activities to implement the ASEAN Decade of Persons with Disabilities (2011-2020) continue. These include the convening of an ASEAN dialogue between the governments and non-governmental organisations on disability issues in September 2012 and a Workshop on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in June 2012 in Bangkok, Thailand. Towards the setting up of an ASEAN network on experts of entrepreneurship, a regional workshop was held in April 2013. The Project for Improving the Overall Quality of Life and Well-being of Persons with Disabilities in ASEAN is ongoing.

Acknowledging the important involvement of nongovernmental organisations in promoting social services and social protection of vulnerable groups, the 7th ASEAN GO-NGO Forum was convened in September 2012 in Ha Noi, Viet Nam. The Forum recommended the development of an ASEAN declaration on strengthening social protection floors, a recommendation welcomed by the SOMSWD. The Regional Workshop on Social Protection and Promoting Social Services for Vulnerable Groups was also convened.■

ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Youth (AMMY)	
Established:	1992. Meets once every two years.
Last Meeting:	AMMY VII, 20 October 2011, Viet Nam.
Senior Officials:	ASEAN Senior Officials' Meeting on Youth (SOMY).

The signing of the ASEAN Charter reflected Member States' commitment to promote a people-oriented ASEAN in which all sectors of society, including youth, are encouraged to participate in and benefit from the process of ASEAN integration and community building. In line with this, the 15-action lines on youth identified in the ASCC Blueprint have been streamlined into the

following four priority areas: (i) Promotion of ASEAN Awareness, (ii) Strengthening Entrepreneurship Skills for Youth, (iii) Instilling Leadership Values in Youth Development and (iv) Youth Volunteerism.

The 18th ASEAN Youth Day Meeting (AYDM) in Bangkok, Thailand from 17 to 21 September 2012, included the presentation of the ASEAN Youth Day Award and Ten ASEAN Youth Organisations (TAYO) Awards. The AYDM and TAYO were convened to enhance ASEAN awareness and to strengthen mutual understanding and regional solidarity among the young peoples in ASEAN's youth population.

The ASEAN Youth Volunteers Program (AYVP) was established as a dedicated youth volunteer platform to create opportunities to support the exchange of learning experiences, develop capacity, enhance cross-cultural understanding and forge a sense of regional identity, while making a sustainable difference to communities across ASEAN.

The ASEAN Youth Program Fund (AYPF) represented another important milestone in 2012. Member States discussed and agreed on the Terms of Reference for the AYPF so that the Fund can be established to support youth-related activities. Contributions to the Fund are open for both ASEAN Member States and external parties.

Various youth programs continue to be implemented with the support and participation of ASEAN Dialogue Partners. China has been organising the China-ASEAN Youth Camp, China-ASEAN Young Entrepreneurs Forum (CAYEF), China-ASEAN Young Entrepreneurs Exchange Programme and the ASEAN Young Leaders Training Programme. The National Council of Youth Organisations in Korea (NCYOK) organised the 14th ASEAN-Korea Future-Oriented Youth Exchange Project to promote cross-cultural understanding and trust between ASEAN and ROK youth. The Asia Exchange Association organised the third ASEAN-Korea Frontier Forum (AKFF) for the next generation of young leaders of ASEAN and ROK, as well as to discuss the role of youth in strengthening dialogue in the fields of diplomacy and international relations.

Japan has implemented a series of activities and programs under the umbrella of the Japan-East Asia Network of Exchange for Students and Youths (JENESYS) Program and KIZUNA. The debut of the new JENESYS program (JENESYS 2.0) will take place in 2013 to further promote interest in Japan among ASEAN youth and to raise awareness and understanding about Japan's strengths, attractions and values. The JENESYS 2.0 aims to invite around 10,000 young people from ASEAN Member States to Japan and dispatch approximately 480 Japanese youth to the ASEAN region.

ASEAN-India Student Exchange Programme 2012: Building Youth Partnerships through Entrepreneurship was implemented so as to follow the Plan of Action of the ASEAN-India Partnership for Peace, Progress and Shared Prosperity (2010-2015), which was adopted by ASEAN Leaders at the 17th ASEAN Summit in October 2010.■

ASEAN Conference on Civil Service Matters (ACCSM)	
Established:	1980. Meets once every two years. Formerly known as the ASEAN Conference on Reform in the Civil Service (ACRCS).
Last Meeting:	ASEAN Heads of Civil Service Meeting, 4 October 2012, Putrajaya, Malaysia.
Senior Officials:	Senior Officials' Meeting of the ASEAN Conference on Civil Service Matters.

The ACCSM's ASEAN Resource Centres continue to implement activities to build the capacity of civil servants and facilitate the exchange of experiences and good practices among ASEAN Member States. A directory handbook of the ASEAN Resource Centres' profiles was published and is available to the public.

As part of collective efforts to promote good governance, the ASEAN heads of civil services exchanged views and shared experiences at the 3rd Forum on Good Governance in October 2012 in Putrajaya, Malaysia. The forum discussed various aspects of public service delivery that meets public needs and demands.

Acting on the Luang Prabang Joint Declaration on ASEAN Plus Three Civil Service Cooperation, the Inaugural Meeting of the ASEAN+3 Heads of Civil Services was heldin October 2012. Joint collaboration on nine pilot projects was discussed. Subsequently, three activities were convened: The Workshop on Competency and Result Based Assessment on 30 October-2 November 2012; Training Course on National ICT Plans and Strategies on 25 February-8 March 2013; and Forum on Effectiveness of the Public Service Web on 11-15 March 2013. At the ASEAN Conference on Promoting Accountability in Public Service held on 14-15 November 2012, practices involving civil society exercising good governance were showcased.■

ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Women (AMMW)	
Established:	1975. Meets once a year.
Last Meeting:	1st AMMW, 19 October 2012, Vientiane, Lao PDR.
Senior Officials:	ASEAN Committee on Women (ACW).

Since its establishment at the 19th ASEAN Summit in November 2011, the Inaugural ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Women (AMMW) was convened in October 2012 in Vientiane, Lao PDR. Ministers adopted the Vientiane Declaration on Enhancing Gender Perspective and ASEAN Women's Partnership for Environmental Sustainability. Acting upon the Declaration, an inter-ministerial workshop on gender issues in climate change impact adaptation is planned for this year. At their Inaugural Meeting, ministers also explored potential cooperation with China, Japan, and Republic of Korea, as well as with the Australia's Ambassador for Women and Girls.

The ACW acknowledged the importance of reliable statistical data of violence against women in promoting effective legal and policy responses. The ACW-Indonesia together with UNFPA organised the Workshop on Strengthening National Capacities to Collect Violence Against Women Statistics in ASEAN in August 2012 in Jakarta, Indonesia.

Committed to promoting women's economic participation, the ACW is establishing the ASEAN Women Entrepreneurs' Network through the adoption of its Terms of Reference in October 2012 and the nomination of its initial members.The Network aims to promote business skills and opportunities of women entrepreneurs from micro-, small- and medium-sized enterprises. A Regional Workshop on the Promotion of Female Entrepreneurs to be Leaders of Local Wisdom Products and Business was convened in August 2012 in Bangkok, Thailand. The project to promote rural women's livelihood with ICT was successfully completed last year, in collaboration with the Asia Pacific Women's Information Network Center (APWINC).

Towards gender equality across sectors of ASEAN cooperation, the ACW convened a consultative meeting with the ASEAN Task Force on AIDS (ATFOA) and civil society organisations in September 2012 in Luang Prabang to discuss ways of reducing intimate partner transmission of HIV amongst key affected women and girls. The Consultative Meeting was supported by UN Women and UNAIDS. The ACW conducted a consultation with the ASEAN Senior Labour Officials Meeting (SLOM) concerning maternity protection in workplace at the Regional Workshop on Strategies for Gender Responsive Social Protection in ASEAN in May 2013 in Ha Noi, Viet Nam.

With the support of the Asian Association of Women's Studies, the Korea-ASEAN Cooperation Project on Education and Exchange Programme for Young Scholars in Women's Studies is on-going. Under this project, two regional workshops convened in October 2012 and January 2013 discussed the strengthening of gender and development curriculum in ASEAN universities.■

ASEAN Commission on the Protection and Promotion of the Rights of Women and Children (ACWC)	
Established:	7 April, 2010. Meets at least twice a year.
Last Meeting:	6th ACWC Meeting, 1-2 April 2013, Jakarta, Indonesia.

The ACWC has developed concepts and implemented plans for eighteen projects and activities under the

ACWC Work Plan 2012-2016. A few projects and activities are on-going, including: The compilation of country good practices in eliminating violence against women and children, expected to be published mid 2013; a public campaign, inaugurated last year, will be undertaken in conjunction with the International Day to Stop Violence against Women on 25 November 2013; a regional workshop is being prepared for June 2013 in Viet Nam to discuss common issues in the CEDAW and CRC Concluding Observations; and the development of guidelines for non-violent approach to child rearing and child caring in various settings. The ACWC met in April 2013 to discuss the ground work needed to establish a regional network of social service agencies involved in preventing, protecting and helping victims of violence against women and children.

The ACWC continues to explore possible collaborations and coordination with other sector bodies to promote and protect the rights of women and children. Consultations took place during the Senior Officials' Meeting on Social Welfare and Development (SOMSWD) and the ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Women (AMMW) in September and October 2012. The ACWC continues to cooperate with the Special Representative of the UN Secretary General on Violence against Children (SRSG-VAC), UN Women, UNICEF and OHCHR. The ACWC Chair and Vice Chair met in December 2012 in Geneva, Switzerland to explore possible cooperation in areas of mutual interest. Collaboration was explored with the European Union (EU) during the ACWC's study visit to Brussels, Belgium, in February 2013.

Acknowledging the importance of engaging civil society in the work of the ACWC, another dialogue with regional and national civil society organisations (CSOs) was convened in July 2012. To promote child participation in ASEAN, the ACWC engaged in dialogued with child representatives from ASEAN Member States in July 2012 on issues concerning children's lives. As part of its support to services for victims of violence, the ACWC visited the "Rumah Perlindungan Trauma Center" and "Rumah Perlindungan Sosial Anak" in Jakarta, Indonesia in July 2012. These shelters provide emergency resources, assistance and protection to victims/survivors of violence against women and children.

ACWC Representatives, in their individual capacity as participants or speakers, took part in various dialogues, seminars and workshops organised by ASEAN Member States and CSOs. Individually, they were also engaged as experts in studies on various topics pertaining to the rights of women and children to provide technical insights.■

ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Sports (AMMS)	
Established:	May 2011. Meets once every two years.
Last Meeting:	1st ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Sports (AMMS), 14 December 2011, Yogyakarta, Indonesia.
Senior Officials:	Senior Officials' Meeting on Sports (SOMS).

In response to the various directives of the First ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Sports (AMMS) held on 14 December 2011 in Yogyakarta, Indonesia, an Experts Group Meeting on Sports (EGMS) was convened on 3-5 July 2012 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia to draft the work plan on Sports and to address the directives of sports Ministers.

The 2nd Senior Officials Meeting on Sports (SOMS-2) was held on 23-25 October 2012 in Chiang Mai, Thailand. There, leaders endorsed the draft Terms of Reference (TOR) of the EGMS, which will be submitted for adoption by the 2nd AMMS set to take place in Lao PDR in 2013. SOMS-2 acknowledged the outcome of the EGMS and encouraged all ASEAN Member States to provide input in to the draft Work Plan on Sports. Lead countries have been identified and will oversee the development and implementation of the specific activities assigned to them within agreed timelines. SOMS-2 also agreed the EGMS will not be a permanent body and will only convened as and when necessary or as directed by SOMS and AMMS.

All ASEAN Member States agreed to individually launch the ASEAN Sports Industry Year (ASIY) 2013 and will conduct sports-related activities with the involvement of relevant industries in their respective countries. The celebration of the ASIY 2013 was acknowledged by the 9th Meeting of ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community (ASCC) Council held

on 23-24 February 2013 in Brunei Darussalam. At the meeting representatives also agreed to include sports as one of the priority areas to be pursued during Brunei Darussalam's Chairmanship of the ASCC Council.

Meanwhile, a Technical Committee will be established to study and undertake necessary consultations with relevant bodies such as ASEAN Football Federation and the FIFA with regard to the proposed ASEAN bid to host the FIFA World in 2030. The football associations in ASEAN Member States shall be represented in this Committee.

Brazil indicated its interest informal cooperation on sports with ASEAN Member States through the signing of a draft Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on Sports. Noting ASEAN and Brazil share common interests in the field of sport, SOMS-2 also raised its interest in cooperating on the issue with Brazil. SOMS-2, however, believes the formalisation of cooperation through an MOU needs to be studied further.■

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ASEAN
Calendar of Meetings
1 June 2012 - 31 May 2013

Meeting held at the ASEAN Hall of the ASEAN Secretariat, Jakarta, Indonesia.

1-3 April 2013	ASEAN Regional Forum Disaster Relief Exercise (ARF DiREx 2013) Final Planning Conference	Cha-am, Thailand
11 April 2013	ARF Defence Officials' Dialogue (ARF DOD)	Shanghai, China
15-16 April 2013	ARF Workshop on Ship Profiling	Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
18-19 April 2013	5th ARF Inter-Sessional Meeting on Maritime Security (ISM on MS)	Seoul, Republic of Korea
27-28 April 2013	ARF Inter-sessional Support Group Meeting on Confidence Building Measures and Preventive Diplomacy(ARF ISG on CBMs and PD)	Beijing, China
7-11 May 2013	ASEAN Regional Forum Disaster Relief Exercise (ARF DiREx 2013)	Cha-am, Thailand
9-10 May 2013	7th ARF Experts and Eminent Persons (EEPs) Meeting	Honolulu, USA
14-15 May 2013	2nd ARF CBM Seminar on Implementation of United Nations Security Council Resolution 1540	Bangkok, Thailand
21-24 May 2013	ARF Defence Officials' Dialogue (DOD), 10th ARF Security Policy Conference (ASPC) and ARF Senior Officials' Meeting (ARF SOM)	Brunei Darussalam
ASEAN Maritime Forum (AMF)		
3-4 October 2012	3rd ASEAN Maritime Forum (AMF)	Manila, Philippines
5 October 2012	1st Expanded ASEAN Maritime Forum (EAMF)	Manila, Philippines
Committee of Permanent Representative to ASEAN (CPR)		
11 September 2012	16/2012 Meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives to ASEAN (CPR)	Phnom Penh, Cambodia
15 November 2012	Meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representative of ASEAN	Phnom Penh, Cambodia
ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights (AICHR)		
3-6 June 2012	6th Meeting on the ASEAN Human Rights Declaration (AHRD)	Yangon, Myanmar
22-23 June 2012	7th Meeting on the ASEAN Human Rights Declaration (AHRD) and the First Regional Consultation for an ASEAN Human Rights Declaration with Civil Society Organisations	Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
24-26 August 2012	Special Meeting of the AICHR and 8th Meeting on the ASEAN Human Rights Declaration (AHRD) and the Second Regional Consultation on an ASEAN Human Rights Declaration with ASEAN Sectoral Bodies	Brunei Darussalam
12-14 September 2012	9th Meeting on the ASEAN Human Rights Declaration (AHRD) and the Second Regional Consultation on an ASEAN Human Rights Declaration with Civil Society Organisations	Manila, Philippines
21-24 September 2012	10th Meeting of AICHR and 10thMeeting on the AHRD	Siem Reap, Cambodia
2 October 2012	Regional Workshop on the Right to Peace	Vientiane, Lao PDR
6 November 2012	First Coordination Meeting of the AICHR thematic study on Migration and Human Rights	Bandung, Indonesia
17 November 2012	Special Meeting of ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights (AICHR)	Phnom Penh, Cambodia
28-29 November 2012	Joint ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights (AICHR) – Australian Human Rights Commission (AHRC) Workshop on Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR)	Singapore
3-6 December 2012	Regional Training Program on Promoting Access to Justice and Human Rights	Bangkok, Thailand
7 December 2012	Regional Workshop on Good Practices in Birth Registration	Bangkok, Thailand
11-12 December 2012	Regional Workshop and Consultation on Business and Human Rights in ASEAN	Singapore
12-14 December 2012	International Workshop on "Enhancing Cooperation between United Nations and Regional Mechanisms for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights"	Geneva, Switzerland
13-14 December 2012	Regional Advance Training Programme on Human Rights: Training of the Trainers	Bangkok, Thailand
29 January-2 Feb. 2013	11th Meeting of the ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights (AICHR)	Brunei Darussalam
8-10 March 2013	Special Meeting of ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights (AICHR)	Jakarta, Indonesia
18-21 March 2013	Intensive Learning Workshop on Woman's Human Rights (WHR) or the Regional and National Secretariats to ASEAN Human Rights' Bodies	Bali, Indonesia
4-5 April 2013	ASEAN Youth Debates on Human Rights	Manila, Philippines
6-10 May 2013	12th Meeting of the ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission on (AICHR) Human Rights	Jakarta, Indonesia
ASEAN ECONOMIC COMMUNITY		
ASEAN Economic Community (AEC) Council		
17 November 2012	8th Meeting of the ASEAN Economic Community (AEC) Council	Phnom Penh, Cambodia
ASEAN Economic Ministers Meeting (AEM)		
4-8 June 2012	30th ASEAN SME Working Group Meeting	Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
4-8 June 2012	2nd ASEAN SME Advisory Board Meeting	Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
4-7 July 2012	70th Coordinating Committee on Services (CCS)	Bangkok, Thailand

16-20 July	SEOM 3/43 and related meetings	Thailand
25 August-1 Sept. 2012	44th ASEAN Economic Ministers Meeting and Related Meetings	Siem Reap, Cambodia
4-6 September 2012	6 ASEAN Committee on Consumer Protection Meeting	Bangkok, Thailand
24-26 September 2012	71st Coordinating Committee on Services (CCS)	Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
26-27 September 2012	ASEAN Community Statistical System (ACSS) Committee – 2nd Session	Siem Reap, Cambodia
9-10 October 2012	1st Prep-Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) Working Group on Services (WGS)	Bandung, Indonesia
5-6 November 2012	10th Meeting of ASEAN Experts Group on Competition	Brunei Darussalam
15-16 November 2012	Senior Economic Officials' Meeting	Phnom Penh, Cambodia
16-18 November 2012	2012 ASEAN Business& Investment Summit (ASEAN-BIS)	Phnom Penh, Cambodia
4 January 2013	23rd High Level Task Force Meeting	Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
17-19 January 2013	72nd Coordinating Committee on Services (CCS)	Brunei Darussalam
26 February 2013	SEOM AFP Consultations	Bali, Indonesia
27-28 February 2013	2nd Prep-Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) Working Group on Services (WGS)	Bali, Indonesia
7-8 March 2013	10th ASEAN Economic Ministers' Retreat (AEM Retreat)	Viet Nam
25-26 March 2013	11th Meeting of ASEAN Experts Group on Competition (AEGC)	Manila, Philippines
8-10 April 2013	Senior Economic Officials' Meeting (SEOM)	Brunei Darussalam
6-8 May 2013	7th ASEAN Committee on Consumer Protection (ACCP) Meeting	Nha Trang, Khanh Hoa, Viet Nam
7-11 May 2013	SEOM 2/44 + Dialogue Partner Consultations	Brunei Darussalam
9-13 May 2013	1st Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) Working Group on Services (WGS)	Brunei Darussalam
15-17May 2013	27th WGIIS (Working Group on International Investment Statistics)	Yogyakarta, Indonesia
4-6 May 2013	Coordinating Committee on ATIGA (CCA), 73rd Coordinating Committee on Services (CCS)	Brunei Darussalam
ASEAN Free Trade Area (AFTA) Council		
20-23 June 2012	16th Working Group on Legal & Regulatory Matter on ASEAN Single Window (LWG)	Bali, Indonesia
23-26 July 2012	10th ASEAN Single Window Steering Committee (ASWSC)	Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
31 July-August 2012	12th Customs Enforcement and Compliance Working Group (CECWG)	Lao PDR
6-10 August 2012	9th Coordinating Committee on ASEAN Trade in Goods Agreement (CCA) and its related meetings	Bangkok, Thailand
4-7 September 2012	20th Meeting of the Working Group on Technical Matters for the ASEAN Single Window	Phnom Penh, Cambodia
10-12 September 2012	13th Meeting of Customs Procedures and Trade Facilitation Working Group (CPTFWG)	Cambodia
11-12 September 2012	24th Working Group on Accreditation and Conformity Assessment (WG 2)	Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
25-28 September 2012	16th Meeting of the Working Group on Legal and Regulatory Matters for the ASW	Philippines
2-4 October 2012	11th Meeting on Customs Capacity Building Working Group (CCBWG)	Indonesia
9-11 October 2012	9th Meeting of the ASW Steering Committee	Vientiane, Lao PDR
15-19 October 2012	29th Working Group on Standards and MRAs (WG 1)	Singapore
16-18 October 2012	14th Joint SectoralCommittee for Electrical and Electronic Equipment (JSC EEE)	Yogyakarta, Indonesia
29 October-1 Nov 2012	39th ASEAN Consultative Committee on Standards and Quality (ACCSQ)	Bandung, Indonesia
6-8 November 2012	17th Meeting of ASEAN Coordinating Committee on Customs (CCC)	Ho Chi Minh City,
16-18 November 2012	14th Joint Sectoral Committee for Electrical and Electronic Equipment (JSC EEE)	Yogyakarta, Indonesia
19-22 November 2012	18th ASEAN Cosmetics Committee (ACC)	Solo, Indonesia
20-23 November 2012	21st Meeting of the Working Group on Technical Matters for the Window (ASW) ASEAN Single	Thailand
24-26 November 2012	17th Meeting of the Working Group on Legal and Regulatory Matters for the ASEAN Single Window (ASW)	Thailand
26-29 November 2012	21st Working Group on Technical Matter on ASEAN Single Window (TWG)	Vientiane
27-28 November 2012	Special Meeting of Coordinating Committee on the Implementation of the ATIGA	Indonesia
15-17 January 2013	9th ASEAN Single Window Steering Committee (ASWSC)	Lao PDR
15-16 January 2013	Sub-Committee on ATIGA Rules of Origin (SCAROO)	Brunei Darussalam
17-19 January 2013	Coordinating Committee on ATIGA (CCA)	Brunei Darussalam
29-31 January 2013	3rd Meeting of the Sub-Working Group on ASEAN Customs Transit System (3rd SWG-ACTS Meeting)	Bangkok, Thailand
19-21 February 2013	12th Meeting of the Working Group on Customs Capacity Building (12thCCBWG Meeting)	Melacca, Malaysia
19-22 February 2013	22nd Working Group on Technical Matter on ASEAN Single Window (TWG)	Indonesia
26 Feb - 1 March 2013	18th Working Group on Legal & Regulatory Matter on ASEAN Single Window (LWG)	Myanmar
26-28 February 2013	24th Working Group on Accreditation and Conformity Assessment	Myanmar
27-28 February 2013	3rd Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) Working Group on Trade in Goods	Indonesia
5-7 March 2013	13th Meeting of the Working Group on Customs Enforcement and Compliance (13th CECWG Meeting)	Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
8-10 April 2013	14th Meeting of the Working Group on Customs Procedures and Trade Facilitation (14th CPTFWG Meeting)	Singapore

2-3 May 2013	Sub-Committee on ATIGA Rules of Origin (SCAROO) CCS Working Groups + MRA Implementation Committee	Brunei Darussalam
7-9 May 2013	18th Meeting of the Coordinating Committee on Customs (18th CCC Meeting)	Manila, Philippines
14-17 May 2013	23rd Working Group on Technical Matter on ASEAN Single Window	Singapore
21-24May 2013	19th ASEAN Cosmetics Committee (ACC)	Vientiane, Lao PDR
28-30 May 2013	19th Working Group on Legal & Regulatory Matter on ASEAN Single Window (LWG)	Lao PDR
ASEAN Investment Area (AIA) Council		
11-13 June 2012	25th Working Group on Foreign Direct Investment Statistics (WGFDIS)	ASEAN Secretariat
24-26 July 2012	57th Coordinating Committee on Investment (CCI)	Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar
16 Nov 2012	2nd ASEAN Investment Forum	Phnom Penh, Cambodia
10-12 October 2012	1st Prep-Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) Working Group on Investment (WGI)	Bandung, Indonesia
5-6 Nov 2012	58th Coordinating Committee on Investment	Jakarta, Indonesia
17-19 January 2013	59th Coordinating Committee on Investment (CCI)	Brunei Darussalam
27-28 February 2013	2nd Prep-Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) Working Group on Investment (WGI)	Bali, Indonesia
20 March 2013	Seminar on ACIA for IPA Officials and	Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
21 March 2013	ACIA Forum (Forum to Socialise/Promote ACIA for Investors and Business People)	Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
4-6 May 2013	60th Coordinating Committee on Investment (CCI)	Brunei Darussalam
9-13 May 2013	1st Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) Working Group on Investment (WGI)	Brunei Darussalam
3-5 July 2013	61st Coordinating Committee on Investment (CCI)	Brunei Darussalam
ASEAN Finance Ministers Meeting (AFMM)		
4-8 February 2013	ASEAN Finance and Central Banks Deputies Working Group Meeting (AFDM-WG)	Brunei Darussalam
4-8 February 2013	35th Working Committee on Financial Services Liberalisation (WC-FSL)	Brunei Darussalam
4-8 February 2013	25th Working Committee on Capital Account Liberalisation (WC-CAL)	Brunei Darussalam
4-8 February 2013	Working Committee on Capital Market Development (WC-CMD)	Brunei Darussalam
31 March 2013	ASEAN Central Bank Deputies Ministers' Meeting	Brunei Darussalam
2 April 2013	42nd Meeting of the IAI Task Forceand Consultations with Dialogue Partners	Jakarta, Indonesia
1 April 2013	ASEAN Finance and Central Bank Deputies' Meeting (AFDM)	Brunei Darussalam
3 April 2013	9th ASEAN Central Bank Governors' Meeting	Brunei Darussalam
4 April 2013	17th ASEAN Finance Ministers' Meeting (AFMM)	
ASEAN Ministers Meeting on Agriculture and Forestry (AMAF)		
11-12 July 2012	6th Project Management Meeting - ASEAN-IFAD/GEF Project on Rehabilitation and Sustainable Use of Peatland Forests in Southeast Asia	Kuantan, Malaysia
12-14 September 2012	5th Rubber Based Product Working Group (RBPWG) Meeting	Lao PDR
21-25 January 2013	Workshop on MRLs and the 15thMeeting on EWG on Harmonization of MRLs of Pesticides	Ho Chi Minh, Viet Nam
29-30 January 2103	ASEAN High Level Consultative Meeting"Integrating Nutrition into ASEAN Food Security Frameworkand its Strategic Plan of Action for Food Security"	Bangkok, Thailand
30-31 January 2013	Investigating Meeting of Food Security Forecasting Information in AFSIS	Bangkok, Thailand
31 January 2013	Joint Consultative Meeting of the SOM-AMAFand SOMHD on " Integrating Nutritionin ASEAN Integrated Food Security Framework	Bangkok, Thailand
7-8 February 2013	3rd Meeting of the ASEAN Coordinating Centre for Animal Health Indonesia and Zoonoses (ACCAHZ) Preparatory Committee	Yogyakarta,
26-28 February 2013	2nd Meeting Ad-Hoc Communication Group on Livestock	Johor Baru, Malaysia
27-28 March 2013	1st ASEAN Public and Private Taskforce on Sustainable Fisheries and Aquaculture	Bali, Indonesia
2-3 April 2013	AFSIS Meeting on Food Security Forecasting Information in AFSIS	Thailand
8-12 April 2013	1st Meeting of the Special Experts Working Group on the ASEAN Regional Standard for Organic Agriculture	Brunei Darussalam Bandar Seri Begawan,
8-12 April 2013	9th Meeting on ASEAN Standards and for Horticulture Produce and for Horticulture Produce and Other Food Crops (MASHP)	Brunei Darussalam Bandar Seri Begawan,
22-26 April 2013	1st ASCP and 3rdAC-SPS Meetings and GAHP Inception Meeting	Jakarta
2-3 May 2013	ASEAN-GIZ-FAO Forum on Food Security and Rural Development in Addressing Climate Change	Bangkok, Thailand
13-14 May 2013	8th Meeting of ASEAN Technical WG on Agric Research and Development (ATWGARD)	Singapore
14-16 May 2013	20th Meeting of the ASEAN Sectoral Working Group on Agriculture Training and Extension (ASGATE)	Malacca, Malaysia
21-22 May 2013	12th Working Group on a Pan ASEAN Timber Certification Initiative	Malaysia
21-23 May 2013	4th Meeting of EWG Good Agricultural Practices (ASEAN GAP)	Dalat, Viet Nam

2-3 May 2013	Sub-Committee on ATIGA Rules of Origin (SCAROO) CCS Working Groups + MRA Implementation Committee	Brunei Darussalam
7-9 May 2013	18th Meeting of the Coordinating Committee on Customs (18th CCC Meeting)	Manila, Philippines
14-17 May 2013	23rd Working Group on Technical Matter on ASEAN Single Window	Singapore
21-24May 2013	19th ASEAN Cosmetics Committee (ACC)	Vientiane, Lao PDR
28-30 May 2013	19th Working Group on Legal & Regulatory Matter on ASEAN Single Window (LWG)	Lao PDR
ASEAN Investment Area (AIA) Council		
11-13 June 2012	25th Working Group on Foreign Direct Investment Statistics (WGFDIS)	ASEAN Secretariat
24-26 July 2012	57th Coordinating Committee on Investment (CCI)	Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar
16 Nov 2012	2nd ASEAN Investment Forum	Phnom Penh, Cambodia
10-12 October 2012	1st Prep-Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) Working Group on Investment (WGI)	Bandung, Indonesia
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28-30 May 2013	19th Working Group on Legal & Regulatory Matter on ASEAN Single Window (LWG)	Lao PDR
ASEAN Investment Area (AIA) Council		
11-13 June 2012	25th Working Group on Foreign Direct Investment Statistics (WGFDIS)	ASEAN Secretariat
24-26 July 2012	57th Coordinating Committee on Investment (CCI)	Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar
16 Nov 2012	2nd ASEAN Investment Forum	Phnom Penh, Cambodia
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ASEAN Ministers on Energy Meeting (AMEM)		
18-22 June 2012	30th SOME	Cambodia
18-22 June 2012	11th SOME+3rdEPGG	Cambodia
10-14 September 2012	SOME Preparatory	Phnom Penh, Cambodia
10-14 September 2012	30th ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Energy (AMEM)	Phnom Penh, Cambodia
ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Science and Technology (AMMST)		
30 November 2012	64th Meeting of ASEAN Committee on Science and Technology Jerudong, (COST-64)	Brunei Darussalam
2 December 2012	7th Informal ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Science and Technology (IAMMST-7)	Jerudong, Brunei Darussalam
23-24 May 2013	65th Meeting of ASEAN Committee on Science and Technology (COST-65)	Tagaytay City, Philippines
ASEAN Telecommunications and Information Technology Ministers Meeting (TELMIN)		
22-26 April 2013	2nd ASEAN Conference on Working Toward a Cyber Pornography and Cyber-Prostitution Free-Southeast Asia	Philippines
ASEAN Transports Ministers Meeting (ATM)		
12-14 March 2013	25th ASEAN Maritime Transport Working Group (MTWG) Meeting	Mandalay, Myanmar
22-26 April 2013	27th ASEAN Air Transport Working Group (ATWG) Meeting	Krabi, Thailand
22-26 April 2013	6th ASEAN Air Transport Economic Cooperation Sub-Working Group Meeting	Krabi, Thailand
22-26 April 2013	6th ASEAN Air Transport Technical Cooperation Sub-Working Group Meeting	Krabi, Thailand
22-26 April 2013	2nd Meeting of 7th Round ATSN	Krabi, Thailand
14-17 May 2013	4th Meeting of ASEAN Multisector Road Safety Special Working Group (MRSSWG) and 22nd ASEAN Land Transport Working Group Meeting	Lao PDR
28-30May 2013	35th ASEAN Senior Transport Officials Meeting (STOM)	Lao PDR
7-10 May 2013	Expert Group Meeting on the Finalisation of ASEAN CBTP and 25th ASEAN Transport Facilitation Working Group (TFWG) Meeting	Langkawi, Malaysia
Meeting of the ASEAN Tourism Ministers (M-ATM)		
27-28 June 2012	36th ASEAN NTOs Meeting	Putra Jaya, Malaysia
18-20 September 2012	ASEAN Tourism Working Group and Committee Meetings: 1) 4th Meeting of ASEAN Tourism Marketing and Communication Working Group (MCWG) 2) 4th Meeting of ASEAN Tourism Product Development Working Group (PDWG) 3) 4th Meeting of ASEAN Tourism Quality Working Group (QTWG) 4) 5th Meeting of ASEAN Tourism Professional Monitoring Committee (ATPMC) 5) 4th Meeting of ASEAN Tourism Budget and Integration Committee (TIBC)	Yogyakarta, Indonesia
18-24 January 2013	ASEAN Tourism Forum 2013	Vientiane, Lao PDR
18 January 2013	37th ASEAN NTOs Meeting	Vientiane, Lao PDR
20 January 2013	16th Meeting of ASEAN Tourism Ministers (M-ATM)	Vientiane, Lao DPR
19-21 March 2013	ASEAN Tourism Working Group and Committee Meetings: 1) 5th Meeting of ASEAN Tourism Marketing and Communication Working Group (MCWG) 2) 5th Meeting of ASEAN Tourism Product Development Working Group (PDWG) 3) 5th Meeting of ASEAN Quality Tourism Working Group (QTWG) 4) 5th Meeting of ASEAN Tourism Integration and Budget Committee (TIBC) 5) 6th Meeting of ASEAN Tourism Professional Monitoring Committee (ATPMC)	Pakse, Lao PDR
15 May 2013	7th ASEAN Tourism Professional Monitoring Committee Meeting	Jakarta, Indonesia
ASEAN Mekong Basin Development Cooperation (AMBDC)		
25 August-1 Sept. 2012	14th ASEAN-Mekong Basin Development Cooperation Ministerial Meeting (AMBDC)	Siem Reap, Cambodia
ASEAN SOCIO-CULTURAL COMMUNITY		
ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community (ASCC) Council		
25-26 June 2012	8th Coordinating Conference on the ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community (8th SOC-COM)	Jakarta, Indonesia
12 September 2012	12th Senior Official Committee for ASCC	Phnom Penh, Cambodia
25 October 2012	8th Meeting of the ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community (ASCC) Council	Phnom Penh, Cambodia
26 January 2013	13th Senior Officials' Committee on the ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community [ASCC] (SOCA)	Brunei Darussalam
21 March 2013	14th Senior Officials' Committee on the ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community [ASCC] (SOCA)	Brunei Darussalam
23 March 2013	9th ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community (ASCC) Council	Brunei Darussalam

8-10 April 2013	ASEAN Senior Officials' Committeefor ASCC Council (SOCA) Joint Preparatory Meeting (JPM)	Brunei Darussalam
ASEAN Ministers Responsible for Information (AMRI)		
1-2 July 2013	Special Senior Official Meeting Responsible for Information	Malaysia
ASEAN Ministers Responsible for Culture and Arts (AMCA)		
17-18 June 2013	Special Senior Official Meeting Responsible for Culture and Arts	Myanmar
ASEAN Education Ministers Meeting (ASED)		
3-5 July 2012	7th ASEAN Education Ministers Meeting (ASED)	Yogyakarta, Indonesia
ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Disaster Management (AMMDM)		
25-27 February 2013	Expert Group Meeting on Disaster Prevention	Tokyo, Japan
ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on the Environment (AMME)		
12-13 June 2012	22nd Meeting of the ASEAN Working Group on Nature Conservation and Biodiversity (AWGNCB)	Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar
27-28 June 2012	10th Meeting of the ASEAN Working Group on Environmentally Sustainable Cities (AWGESC)	Manila, Philippines
17-18 July 2012	ASEAN Environment Year and ASEAN Eco-schools Award	Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
25-26 July 2012	12th Meeting of the ASEAN Working Group on Water Resources Management (AWGWRM)	Ha Long City, Viet Nam
30-31 July 2012	16th Meeting of the ASEAN Working Group on Multilateral Environmental Agreements (AWGMEA) Indonesia	Bangkok, Thailand
25-26 August 2012	14th Meeting of the Governing Board of ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity	Siem Reap, Cambodia
27-28 August 2012	23rd Meeting of the Senior Officials on the Environment (ASOEN)	Siem Reap, Cambodia
26 September 2012	12th ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on the Environment (AMME)	Bangkok, Thailand
20-21 February 2012	1st Meeting of the MSC Technical Task Force	Singapore
27-28 March 2013	3rd Meeting of the ASEAN Working Group on Climate Change (AWGCC)	Siem Reap, Cambodia
31 March-1 April 2013	10th Meeting of the Technical Working Group on Transboundary Haze Sub-Region (TWG Mekong) Pollution in the Mekong	Siem Reap, Cambodia
31 March-1 April 2013	3rd Meeting of the Sub-Regional Ministerial Steering Committee on Pollution in the Mekong Sub-Region (MSC Mekong) Transboundary Haze	Siem Reap, Cambodia
8-10 April 2013	Workshop on ASEAN Environmental Education Action Plan (AEEAP) 2008-2012 Review and Its Successor Plan Formulation	Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
11-12 April 2013	5th Meeting of the ASEAN Working Group on Environmental Education (AWGEE)	Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
21-22 May 2013	14th Meeting of the ASEAN Working Group on Coastal and Marine Environment (AWGCME)	Sihanoukville, Cambodia
Conference of the Parties (COP) to the ASEAN Agreement on Transboundary Haze Pollution		
24 September 2012	8th Meeting of the Committee under COP to ASEAN Agreement on Transboundary Haze Pollution (COM-8)	Bangkok, Thailand
26 September 2012	8th Meeting of the Conference of Parties to the ASEAN Agreement on Transboundary Haze Pollution (COP-8)	Bangkok, Thailand
30 October 2012	14th Meeting of the Technical Working Group on Transboundary Haze Pollution (TWG)	Bali, Indonesia
31 October 2012	14th Meeting of the Sub-Regional Ministerial Steering Transboundary Haze Pollution (MSC)	Bali, Indonesia
31 March 2013	10th Meeting of the Technical Working Group on Transboundary Haze Pollution in the Mekong Sub-Region (TWG Mekong)	Siem Reap, Cambodia
1 April 2013	3rd Meeting of the Sub-Regional Ministerial Steering Committee on Transboundary Haze Pollution in the Mekong Sub-Region (MSC Mekong)	Siem Reap, Cambodia
ASEAN Health Ministers Meeting (AHMM)		
11-12 June 2012	Workshop on Increase Access to Health Services	Bogor, West Java,
15-14 June 2012	Workshop on Migrants Health	Bogor, West Java
2-6 July 2012	11th ASEAN Health Minister Meting (AHMM) and other related Meetings	Phuket, Thailand
26-27 September 2012	20th Meeting of ASEAN Task Force on AIDS	LuangPrabang, Lao PDR
17-19 October 2012	9th Meeting of ASEAN Expert Group on Food Safety (AEGFS)	Ha Noi, Viet Nam
7-9 November 2012	7th Meeting of ASEAN Expert Group on Communicable Diseases (AEGCD)	Manila, Philippines
29 November 2012	3rd Meeting of the ASEAN Task Force on Traditional Medicine (ATFTM)	Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
11-13 December 2012	28th Meeting of the ASEAN Working Group on Pharmaceutical Development (AWGPD)	Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei Darussalam

7-9 May 2013	4th Meeting of ASEAN Focal Point on Tobacco Control (AFPTC)	Siem Riep, Cambodia

ASEAN Labour Ministers Meeting (ALMM)

22-23 January 2013	ASEAN-OSHNET Plus Three Workshop on Development of ASEAN-OSHNET Scorecard and Information Strategies for Occupational Safety and Health	Bangkok, Thailand
29-30 January 2013	7th Meeting of the ASEAN Committee on the Implementation of the ASEAN Declarationon the Promotion and the Protection of the Rightsof Migrant Workers – Drafting Team (ACMW-DT)	Brunei Darussalam
4-8 March 2013	ASEAN-ILO-COMPAS Course on Migrant Labour	Bangkok, Thailand
25-26 March 2013	11th Meeting of ASEAN Experts Group on Competition (AEGC)	Manila, Philippines
8-9 April 2013	ASEAN-OSHNET Coordinating Board Meeting	Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar
13-16 May 2013	9th ASEAN SLOM and related meetings	Semarang, Indonesia

ASEAN Ministers on Rural Development and Poverty Eradication (AMRDPE)

11-15 June 2012	9th SOMRDPE	Ha Noi, Viet Nam
11-15 June 2012	Joint Workshop of SOMRDPE and SOM-AMAF and ASEAN GO-NGO Forum on Rural Development and Poverty Eradication	Ha Noi, Viet Nam

ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Social Welfare and Development (AMMSWD)

6–8 June 2012	2nd ASEAN Children's Forum	Singapore
3-5 July 2012	5th ASEAN Commission for the Promotion and Protection of the Rights of Women and Children (ACWC)	Jakarta, Indonesia
10-12 July 2012	Seminar-Workshop on Early Childhood Care and Development (ECCD) System Development	Manila, Philippines
9-14 September 2012	8th SOMSWD and Related Meetings	Ha Noi, Thailand
1-2 April 2013	6th ASEAN Commission for the Promotion and Protection of the Rights of Women and Children (ACWC)	Jakarta, Indonesia

ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Youth (AMMY)

4-5 April 2013	ASEAN Youth Debates on Human Rights	Manila, Philippines
20-21 May 2013	Senior Officials Meeting on Youth (SOMY)	Brunei Darussalam
22 May 2013	8th ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Youth (AMMY)	Brunei Darussalam

ASEAN Conference on Civil Service Matters (ACCSM)

2-4 October 2012	Meeting of the ASEAN Heads of the Civil Service and ASEAN Heads of Civil Service Plus Three	Putrajaya, Malaysia
27-28 February 2013	5th Regional Seminar of the ASEAN-ILO/Japan Project on Industrial Relations	Ha Noi, Viet Nam
27-28 February 2013	Preparatory Meeting of the 17th ACCSM	Bagan, Myanmar

ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Women (AMMW)

16-18 October 2012	1st ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Women (AMMW)	Vientiane, Lao PDR
16-18 October 2012	11th ASEAN Committee on Women (ACW) Meeting	Vientiane, Lao PDR
29 Nov. – 1 Dec. 2012	Special ACWC Meeting	Bangkok, Thailand

ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Sports (AMMS)

23-25 October 2012	2nd ASEAN Senior Officials Meeting on Sports (SOMS-2)	Chiang Mai, Thailand

ASEAN CONNECTIVITY

28-29 June 2012	The 2/2012 Meeting of the ASEAN Connectivity Coordinating Committee (ACCC)	Batam, Indonensia
8-10 September 2012	The 3/2012 Meeting of the ASEAN Connectivity Coordinating Committee (ACCC)	Phnom Penh, Cambodia
9 September 2012	The ACCC informal Consultation on Connectivity with Dialogue Partners and Development Partners	Phnom Penh, Cambodia
9 September 2012	2/2012 Meeting of ACCC and Japanese Task Force on Connectivity	Phnom Penh, Cambodia
7 November 2012	1st Meeting between ACCC and The Chinese Working Committee of the China-ASEAN Connectivity Cooperation Committee	Jakarta, Indonesia
3-4 April 2013	The 1/2013 Meeting of the ASEAN Connectivity Coordinating Committee (ACCC)	Jakarta, Indonesia
4 April 2013	1/2013 Meeting of the ACCC and Japanese Task Force on Connectivity	Jakarta, Indonesia

EXTERNAL RELATIONS

ASEAN–Australia

5 September 2012	2nd ASEAN-Australia Joint Cooperation Committee Meeting	Jakarta, Indonesia
6 March 2013	7th Meeting of Joint Programme Review Committee (JPRC) for AADCP II	Jakarta, Indonesia
29-30 April 2013	Workshop 2 – AADCP II Project on GAP	Phnom Penh

ASEAN–Canada

7-9 June 2012	9th ASEAN-Canada Dialogue	Bangkok, Thailand
3 April 2013	1st ASEAN-Canada Joint Cooperation Committee (ACJCC)	Jakarta, Indonesia
6-7 May 2013	10th ASEAN-Canada Dialogue Meeting	Toronto, Canada

ASEAN–China

16-20 July 2012	China-ASEAN Workshop on Green Economy & Environmental Management	Beijing, China
17-18 September 2012	ASEAN-China Environmental Cooperation Forum 2012, with theme: "Biodiversity and Green Development" Regional	Beijing, China
26-29 September 2012	6th ASEAN-China Forum on Social Development and Poverty Eradication	Beijing, China
19-24 October 2012	9th China-ASEAN Expo (CAEXPO), 19th China-ASEAN Business and Investment Summit and related events	Nanning, China
22-24 October 2012	2nd ASEAN-China Free Trade Area (ACFTA) Joint Committee	Singapore
18 November 2012	15th ASEAN-China Summit	Phnom Penh, Cambodia
12-14 March 2013	3rd ASEAN-China Free Trade Area Joint Committee (ACFTA JC) and related Meetings	China
14 March 2013	14th ASEAN-China Joint Cooperation Committee (ACJCC) Working Group Meeting	Jakarta, Indonesia
19-21 March 2013	2nd Working Group Meeting on the Implementation of, the Strategic Plan for ASEAN-China Transport Cooperation	China Guilin

ASEAN–European Union

16-17 January 2013	20th ASEAN-EU Joint Cooperation Committee Meeting (AEUJCC)	ASEC, Jakarta
9 March 2013	AEM-EU Trade Commissioner Consultation 3rd ASEAN-EU Business Summit	Ha Noi, Viet Nam
1-3 May 2013	ASEAN-EU FTA Workshop on Trade and Investment	Brunei Darussalam
14-15 May 2013	ASEAN-EU Senior Officials Meeting (AEU SOM)	Ho Chi Minh City, Viet Nam

ASEAN–India

27-29 June 2012	Workshop on Climate Change Projects under ASEAN-India Green Fund	Bangalore, India
6-7 September 2012	ASEAN-India Ministers Meeting on Environment, focusing on Biodiversity with a theme: "Learning from the Past, Assessing the Present and Planning for the Future"	New Delhi, India
16-17 September 2012	4th ASEAN-India EPG Meeting	Kochi, India
16-17 September 2012	4th Meeting of the ASEAN–India Eminent Person Group	Kuchi Kerala, India
17 October 2012	2nd ASEAN India Ministerial Meeting on Agriculture and Forestry	New Delhi, India
19 November 2012	10th ASEAN-India Summit	Phnom Penh, Cambodia
18-20 December 2012	ASEAN-India BusinessFair and Business Conclave	New Delhi, India
20-21 December 2012	ASEAN- India Commemorative Summit	New Delhi, India
19 January 2013	10thASEAN-India Tourism Working Group Meeting	Vientiane, Lao PDR
21 January 2013	4th Meeting of ASEAN-India Tourism Ministers	Vientiane, Lao PDR
21 January 2013	20th ASEAN-India Working Group Meeting (AIWG)	Jakarta, Indonesia
18-19 February 2013	15th ASEAN-India Senior Officials Meeting (AISOM) Delhi Dialogue V (Track 1.5)	New Delhi, India
6-8 May 2013	3rd ASEAN-India WG on Agriculture and Forestry	New Delhi, India

ASEAN–Japan

4-8 June 2012	10th Joint Consultation between the ASEAN SMEWG and Japan	Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
18-22 June 2012	13th SOME-METI	Cambodia
10 July 2012	5th Mekong-Japan Ministerial Meeting	Phnom Penh,Cambodia
25 August-1 Sept. 2012	4th Mekong-Japan Economic Ministers' Meeting	Siem Reap, Cambodia
29 August 2012	6th ASEAN-Japan Dialogue on Environmental Cooperation	Siem Reap, Cambodia
15 September 2012	28th ASEAN-Japan Forum	Phnom Penh, Cambodia
29-31 October 2012	8th ASEAN-Japan Comprehensive Economic Partnership Joint Committee	Tokyo, Japan
19 November 2012	15th ASEAN-Japan Summit	Phnom Penh, Cambodia

30-31 January 2013	9th AJCEP Sub-Committee on Services	Chiang Mai, Thailand
4-6 February 2013	9th AJCEP Sub-Committee on Investment	Jakarta, Indonesia
2-4 April 2013	9th ASEAN-Japan Comprehensive Economic Partnership Joint Committee (AJCEP JC) and related Meetings	Singapore
28 May-1 June 2013	8th ASEAN-Japan Counter-Terrorism (AJCT) Dialogue	Bangkok, Thailand

ASEAN–Republic of Korea

13 June 2012	15th Meeting of the ASEAN-Korea Environmental Cooperation Project (AKECOP) Steering Committee (ECOPSC) Meeting	Seoul, ROK
10 July 2012	Mekong–ROK Ministers Meeting (tbc)	Phnom Penh,Cambodia
9 September 2012	ASEAN-Korea Environmental Cooperation Project (AKECOP) Workshop at 2012 IUCN World Conservation Congress (WCC)	Jeju, ROK
19 November 2012	15th ASEAN-ROK Summit	Phnom Penh, Cambodia
17 April 2013	15th ASEAN-ROK JPRC WG Meeting	Jakarta, Indonesia
18 April 2013	15th ASEAN-ROK JPRC Meeting	Jakarta, Indonesia

ASEAN–New Zealand

5 February 2013	Special Meeting of ASEAN-New Zealand Joint Cooperation Committee (ANZJCC)	Jakarta, Indonesia
14-16 February 2013	20th ASEAN-New Zealand Dialogue Meeting	Wellington, New Zealand

ASEAN–Russian Federation

18-22 June 2012	3rd SOME-Russia	Cambodia
19 January 2013	4th ASEAN-Russia Tourism Consultations	Vientiane, Lao PDR
20 March 2013	10th ASEAN-Russia Joint Project Monitoring Committee (ARJPMC)	Jakarta, Indonesia
21 March 2013	11th ASEAN-Russia Joint Cooperation Committee (ARJCC)	Jakarta, Indonesia
30-31May 2013	10th ASEAN-Russia Senior Officials Meeting (ARSOM)	Langkawi, Malaysia

ASEAN–United States

18-22 June 2012	3rd SOME-US	Cambodia
29 August 2012	ASEAN-US Business Summit	Siem Reap, Cambodia
6-7 September 2012	2nd Meeting of the ASEAN-US Eminent Persons Group	Myanmar
19 November 2012	4th ASEAN–U.S. Leaders' Meeting	Phnom Penh, Cambodia
2-3 May 2013	ASEAN-US Dialogue Meeting	Washington DC, US

ASEAN Plus Three

4-8 June 2012	10th Joint Consultation between the ASEAN SMEWG and Plus Three Countries	Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
11-15 June 2012	5th SOMRDPE Plus Three	Ha Noi, Viet Nam
3-5 July 2012	1st ASEAN Plus Three Education Ministers Meeting (APT EMM)	Yogyakarta, Indonesia
10 July 2012	ASEAN Plus Three Senior Officials Meeting (APT SOM)	Phnom Penh, Cambodia
9-13 July 2012	ASEAN Plus Three Foreign Ministers Meeting	Phnom Penh, Cambodia
30 June 2012	21st ASEAN Plus Three NTOs Meeting	Putra Jaya, Malaysia
29 August 2012	9th ASEAN Plus Three Senior Officials Meeting on the Environment (SOME)	Siem Reap, Cambodia
10-14 September 2012	11th SOME Plus Three	Phnom Penh, Cambodia
10-14 September 2012	9th AMEM Plus Three	Phnom Penh, Cambodia
12-14 September 2012	ASEAN Plus Three SOM	Phnom Penh, Cambodia
27 September 2012	11th ASEAN Plus Three Environment Ministers Meeting (EMM)	Bangkok, Thailand
16-18 October 2012	4th ASEAN Committee on Women (ACW) Plus Three	Vientiane, Lao PDR
17-19 October 2012	5th ASEAN Plus Three Leadership Programme Sustainable Production and Consumption	Manila, Philippines
15-16 November 2012	ASEAN Plus Three SOM	Phnom Penh, Cambodia
19 November 2012	ASEAN Plus Three Commemorative Summit	Phnom Penh, Cambodia
19 January 2013	22nd ASEAN Plus Three NTOs Meeting	Vientiane, Lao PDR
21 January 2013	12th Meeting of ASEAN Plus Three Tourism Ministers	Vientiane, Lao PDR
5-7 March 2013	ASEAN Plus Three Finance and Central Bank Working Group Meetings	Brunei Darussalam
2-3 April 2013	Formal and Informal ASEAN Plus Three Financeand Central Bank Deputies Meetings (AFCDM+3)	Brunei Darussalam
8-12 April 2013	ASEAN Plus Three Village Leaders Exchange Programme	Sichuan, China
2 May 2013	ASEAN Plus Three Finance and Central Bank Deputies Meeting (AFCDM+3)	New Delhi, India
3 May 2013	16th ASEAN Plus Three Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors Meeting (AFMGM+3)	New Delhi, India

21-24 May 2013	ASEAN Plus Three SOM (APT SOM)	Brunei Darussalam
23 May 2013	4th ASEAN Plus Three Ministerial Meeting on Youth (AMMY+3)	Brunei Darussalam
23 May 2013	CPR Plus Three Meeting	Jakarta, Indonesia
ASEAN – CER (Australia and New Zealand)		
28 January	AANZFTA Economic Cooperation Work Programme	Brunei Darussalam
1 February 2013	(ECWP) - Regional Training for Trainers on AANZFTA ROO	
6-7 February 2013	AANZFTA Economic Cooperation Work Programmed (ECWP) - IP Madrid Protocol in-country Consultation Fora	Brunei Darussalam
18-22 March 2013	AANZFTA ECWP: In-Country Training for Trainers on AANZFTA ROO	Indonesia
25-26 April 2013	AANZFTA ECWP - Technical Workshop on investment disputes, resolution (including arbitration) and prevention	Bangkok
25-29 March 2013	AANZFTA ECWP: In-Country Training for Trainers on AANZFTA ROO	Malaysia
22-26 April 2013	AANZFTA ECWP: In-Country Training for Trainers on AANZFTA ROO	Bangkok, Thailand
15-19 April 2013	AANZFTA ECWP: In-Country Training for Trainers on AANZFTA ROO	Lao PDR
27-28 May 2013	AANZFTA ECWP: IP Madrid Protocol in-country Consultation For a	Lao PDR
30-31May 2013	AANZFTA ECWP: IP Madrid Protocol in-country Consultation For a	Cambodia
East Asia Summit (EAS)		
18-22 June 2012	East Asia Summit (EAS) ECTF	Cambodia
3-5 July 2012	1st East Asia Summit Education Ministers Meeting (EAS EMM)	Yogyakarta, Indonesia
10 July 2012	East Asia Summit Senior Officials Meeting (EAS SOM)	Phnom Penh, Cambodia
9-13 July 2012	East Asia Summit (EAS) Foreign Ministers Meeting	Phnom Penh, Cambodia
15-17 August 2012	10th East Asia Forum	Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar
27-29 August 2012	Preparatory EAS-SOM for the 3rd EAS EMM	Siem Reap, Cambodia
10-14 September 2012	6th EAS EMM	Phnom Penh, Cambodia
12-14 September 2012	East Asia Summit Senior Officials Meeting (EAS SOM)	Phnom Penh, Cambodia
24-29 September 2012	3rd EAS Environment Ministers Meeting	Bangkok, Thailand
15-16 November 2012	East Asia Summit Senior Officials Meeting (EAS SOM)	Phnom Penh, Cambodia
19 November 2012	7th East Asia Summit (EAS)	Phnom Penh, Cambodia
21-24 May 2013	East Asia Summit Senior Officials Meeting (EAS SOM)	Brunei Darussalam
Other Related Meetings		
27 September 2012	ASEAN-GCC Ministerial Meeting	New York, US
27 September 2012	ASEAN-Rio Group (Troika Format)	New York, US
27 September 2012	ASEAN-MERCOSUR Ministerial Meeting	New York, US
15 October 2012	12th ASEAN–Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) Ministerial Meeting	Baku, Republic of Azerbaijan
16 October 2012	ECO Summit	Baku, Republic of Azerbaijan
5-6 November 2012	9th ASEM Summit	Vientiane, Lao PDR
19 November 2012	5th ASEAN-UN Summit	Phnom Penh, Cambodia
12-16 May 2013	ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly (AIPA) Fact Finding Committee (AIFOCOM) to Combat the Drug Menace	Brunei Darussalam
16-22 September 2012	33rd General Assembly of the ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly	Lombok, Indonesia
12 – 13 May 2013	5th Caucus Meeting of the ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly	Da Lat, Viet Nam
12-16 May 2013	ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly (AIPA) Fact Finding Committee (AIFOCOM) to Combat the Drug Menace	Brunei Darussalam
25 October 2012	Special Meeting of the Board of Trustees of the ASEAN Foundation	Jakarta, Indonesia
13 December 2012	29th Meeting of the Board of Trustees of the ASEAN Foundation	Jakarta, Indonesia
21 January 2012	1st Meeting of the Selection Committee of the Recruitment of New ASEAN Foundation Executive Director	Jakarta, Indonesia

The ASEAN Emblem represents a stable, peaceful, united and dynamic ASEAN. The colours of the Emblem - blue, red, white and yellow - represent the main colours of the crests of all the ASEAN Member States.

Blue represents peace and stability. Red depicts courage and dynamism. White shows purity and yellow symbolises prosperity.

The ten stalks of padi represent the dream of ASEAN's Founding Fathers for an ASEAN comprising all the ten countries in Southeast Asia bound together in friendship and solidarity. The circle represents the unity of ASEAN.

The specification of Pantone Colour adopted for the colours of the ASEAN Emblem are:

Blue : Pantone 286
Red : Pantone Red 032
Yellow : Pantone Process Yellow

For four-colour printing process, the specifications of colours will be:

Blue : 100C 60M 0Y 6K (100C 60M 0Y 10K)
Red : 0C 91M 87Y 0K (0C 90M 90Y 0K)
Yellow : 0C 0M 100Y 0K

Specifications in brackets are to be used when an arbitrary measurement of process colours is not possible.

In Pantone Process Colour Simulator, the specifications equal to:

Blue : Pantone 204-1
Red : Pantone 60-1
Yellow : Pantone 1-3

The font used for the word "ASEAN" in the Emblem is lower-case Helvetica in bold.

The ASEAN Flag represents a stable, peaceful, united and dynamic ASEAN. The colours of the Flag - blue, red, white and yellow - represent the main colours of the flags of all the ASEAN Member States.

Blue represents peace and stability. Red depicts courage and dynamism. White shows purity and yellow symbolises prosperity.

The ten stalks of padi represent the dream of ASEAN's Founding Fathers for an ASEAN comprising all the ten countries in Southeast Asia bound together in friendship and solidarity. The circle represents the unity of ASEAN.

The specification of Pantone Colour adopted for the colours of the ASEAN Flag are:

Blue : Pantone 19-4053 TC
Red : Pantone 18-1655 TC
White : Pantone 11-4202 TC
Yellow : Pantone 13-0758 TC

For the printed version, the specifications of colours (except white) will follow those for the colours of the ASEAN Emblem, i.e.:

Blue : Pantone 286 or Process Colour 100C 60M 0Y 6K
Red : Pantone Red 032 Process Colour 0C 91M 87Y 0K
Yellow : Pantone Process Yellow Process Colour 0C 0M 100Y 0K

The ratio of the width to the length of the Flag is two to three and the size specifications for the official flags are:

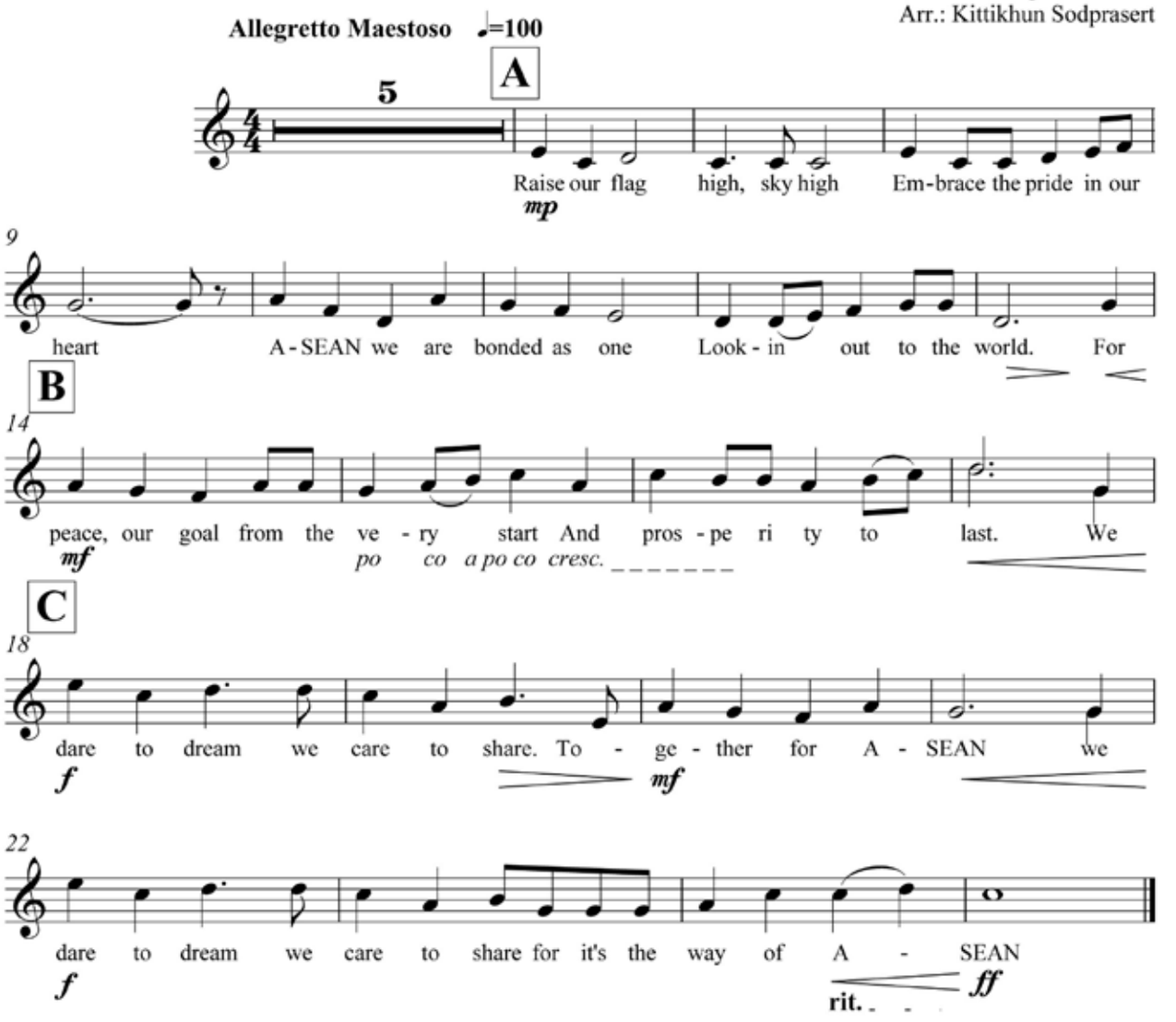
Table Flag : 10 cm x 15 cm
Room Flag : 100 cm x 150 cm
Car Flag : 10 cm x 30 cm
Field Flag : 200 cm x 300 cm

Soprano

ASEAN Anthem The ASEAN WAY

Lyricist : Payom Valaiphatchra

Music: Kittikhun Sodprasert
& Sampao Triudom
Arr.: Kittikhun Sodprasert



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