



**SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 1ST FORUM OF ENTITIES ASSOCIATED WITH ASEAN
“FORGING AHEAD TOGETHER”
4 MAY 2017, ASEAN SECRETARIAT, JAKARTA**

1. Article 16 of the ASEAN Charter envisions a working engagement between ASEAN and its associated entities. The ASEAN Secretariat (ASEC), specifically the Community Relations Division (CRD), is mandated to monitor the status of entities and levels of engagement of each entity associated with ASEAN and facilitate the accreditation process of entities seeking association. In executing its mandate, CRD views that more effort is needed to raise the entities' level of awareness about ASEAN, especially as ASEAN celebrates its 50th anniversary in 2017.
2. The 1st forum of associated entities was therefore convened, with financial support from the German Federal Government through the GIZ cooperation, to brief the Entities on their potential contributions in implementing ASEAN Vision 2025, their privileges and obligations as associated entities, and plans to commemorate the 50th anniversary of ASEAN.
3. A total of 153 participants representing 55 entities associated with ASEAN, entities seeking accreditation with ASEAN, and ASEAN-related centres took part in the Forum. Other participants included the Permanent Representatives (PRs) of Brunei Darussalam, Malaysia, Myanmar, and members of the CPRs from Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, the Philippines, Singapore, and Viet Nam. Other notable participants included Mr. Timo Goosman, First Secretary (ASEAN Affairs) of Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany, and representatives from the GIZ cooperation program. The Community Affairs Directorate and relevant officers from the ASEAN Secretariat were also present. The participants list and adopted programme of the Forum appear as **ANNEXES A** and **B** respectively.

WELCOME REMARKS

4. Dr. AKP Mochtan, the Deputy Secretary-General of ASEAN for Community and Corporate Affairs Department (CCAD), opened the Forum. In his welcome remarks, he encouraged a stronger working synergy between ASEAN and the entities. He highlighted the importance of such synergy to materialise a people-centered and people-oriented ASEAN Community and make the people understand the benefits of ASEAN regional integration.
5. Ambassador Elizabeth P. Buensuceso, Permanent Representative of the Philippines to ASEAN, and the current Chair of the ASEAN CPR, through a video-recording, thanked and congratulated ASEC for organising the inaugural forum of the entities. She urged all entities to join hands as ASEAN moves towards achieving the measures laid out in the Vision 2025.

SESSION I: KNOWING YOUR ASEAN FAMILY

Moderator: DIR LEE Yoong Yoong (Community and Corporate Affairs Department)

Speakers: SO Paladin (APSCD); ADR Norain Ali (AECD); ADR Ferdinal Fernando (ASCCD)

6. This session aimed to provide information on the three pillars of ASEAN: Political Security Community, Economic Community and Socio-Cultural Community. All speakers touched on the key developments and characteristics of their respective pillar's Blueprint 2025. They also highlighted how the entities can contribute in the implementation of the blueprints.

7. The Forum had a robust discussion during the Q&A. Some of the highlights are below:

| Comments/Questions/Issues raised | Entity that raised the Comments/Questions/ Issues | ASEC's Responses |
|--|---|--|
| (a) Encouraged the instilling of integrity and anti-corruption culture in ASEAN. | ASEAN Corporate Social Responsibility Network | |
| (b) Appreciated the ratifications by all AMSs on UN Convention on Rights of People with Disabilities (UNCRPD). (c) Appealed for the early establishment of ASEAN Commission on Protection of Rights of Persons with Disability (PWDs). (d) Sought ASEC's support to develop a website to be accessible for all PWDs. (e) Emphasized the importance of access to information, communication and technology (ICT). (f) Urged AMSs to develop SDG indicators and to synchronise with other international treaties, especially those concerning human rights. | ASEAN Disability Forum | <p>There is already an ASEAN ICT Strategic Plan in-place to harness info-communication from technologies across different groups.</p> <p>All ASCCD work programs have been aligned with the SDG goals and targets.</p> |
| (g) Enquired about ASEAN's plan to embrace digital leadership and how Entities can play a role. | ASEAN Chief Information Officers Association | As this is a cross-sectoral issue, sectoral bodies in all 3 pillars have already started |

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| <p>(h) Recommended AEC to consider crowd funding for Small and Medium Enterprise (SMEs)</p> | | <p>discussion to address the issue.</p> <p>A project-document to develop the guidelines for equity crowd funding for SMEs will be available.</p> <p>It is important for private sector to identify links with the relevant sectoral body.</p> |
| <p>(i) Stressed the need for ASEAN to be more inclusive when dealing with entities with different functions.</p> <p>(j) Proposed ASEAN to emulate the UN model of peer-review (which includes inputs from CSOs/NGOs).</p> | <p>ASEAN International Federation of Non-Government Organisations for the Prevention of Drug and Substance Abuse (ASEAN IFNGO)</p> | |
| <p>(k) Urged ASEAN to pay attention to the not-so-sexy industries, such as weavers/textile artisans.</p> | <p>Traditional Textile Arts Society of Southeast Asia</p> | <p>Planning is underway to promote (i) the vital role of culture in ASEAN, and (ii) harness the contributions of the creative industries.</p> |
| <p>(l) Queried on how aspirational priorities in culture-information can be addressed in ASEAN.</p> | <p>Southeast Asia Directors of Music Education</p> | |
| <p>(m) Suggested AEC to adopt a regional standard valuers' guideline to harmonise real estates' practices</p> | <p>ASEAN Valuers Association</p> | |
| <p>(n) Questioned how private sector can be involved right at the beginning in an ASEAN initiative/project.</p> | <p>ASEAN Federation of Forwarders Association</p> | |
| <p>(o) Reiterated the compelling need to simplify customs processes of navigating tariff for ASEAN enterprises.</p> | <p>AirAsia Foundation</p> | <p>Each Member State has a national Free Trade Agreement body that can provide assistance. There is also the "self-certification" process which makes it easier for small traders to clear customs procedures.</p> |

8. The forum noted with appreciation that though some of the questions posed were outside their purview and departmental responsibilities, the three speakers did their best to provide responses. As a follow-up, the moderator requested all speakers to provide responses to unanswered queries via emails to participants after consulting with their colleagues.

9. The forum also noted the general mechanism of collaboration in the various pillars, including the “entry points” for entities to provide their inputs and to initiate the cooperative process, e.g. through the national secretariats and/or interface with sectoral working groups.

DIALOGUE I – WHAT IT MEANS TO BE AN ASSOCIATED ENTITY?

Moderator: SO Mai Tang (Community Relations Division, CRD)

Speakers: ADR Nadya Fanessa (Legal Services and Agreements Division, LSAD); ADR Romeo Arca Jr. (CRD); ADR Rimta Silangit (Project Cooperation/Project Management Division, PCPMD)

10. The dialogue aimed to raise participants’ awareness about their privileges and obligations as entities associated with ASEAN. All speakers highlighted their respective areas of responsibilities on what it meant to be an ASEAN associated entity.

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| LSAD | Guidelines on Use of “ASEAN”; Rules of Procedure and Criteria for Engagement of Entities Associated with ASEAN; Privileges of Entities Associated with ASEAN |
| CRD | Accreditation Process; Use of ASEAN Emblem, Flag, Anthem; 50 th Anniversary Logo. |
| PCPMD | ASEAN Development Cooperation Framework; How entities can access project funding; Scope of ASEAN Projects; Modalities of Cooperation; Stakeholders in ASEAN Cooperation Project; Proponent, Implementing Agency, Appraisal/Approval process. |

11. Various views and insights were exchanged during the Q&A. They included:

| Comments/Questions/Issues raised | Entity that raised the Comments/Questions/Issues | ASEC’s Responses |
|--|---|--|
| (a) The redundancy of entities which are already accredited with ASEAN but still have to seek “consultative status” from another ASEAN body e.g. ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights (AICHR). | The Working Group for an ASEAN Human Rights Mechanism | Each sectoral body should decide its own procedures in engaging with entities as per the guidelines. |

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| <p>(b) Access of COCI funding.</p> <p>(c) Use of “ASEAN” for entities seeking accreditation and the unauthorized use of the name ASEAN.</p> | | <p>Entities may wish to liaise directly with the relevant AMS’ COCI focal bodies and to submit the proposal.</p> <p>The name “ASEAN” is protected under the rules of World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO). With regard to the unauthorized use of ASEAN name, there is a need for ASEC to do a balanced intervention. Any legal actions would be taken in consultation with AMSs.</p> |
| <p>(d) ASEAN to look into the rights of persons with disability, a cross-cutting issue that is related to not only social-cultural community but also political and economic communities. The lack of coordination in cross-cutting issues was also pointed out.</p> | | <p>Disability is indeed a cross cutting issue, and coordination within ASEAN is a challenge. With the gradual strengthening of the ASEAN organs, the issue would be better handled in the time to come.</p> |

DIALOGUE II – 50th Anniversary Commemorative Activities and ASEAN Day

12. DIR Yoong Yoong briefed the forum on the confirmed regional commemorative activities to celebrate ASEAN’s Golden Jubilee. They included (a) Tribute to Founding Fathers; (b) ASEAN Youth Social Entrepreneurship Awards, and (c) ASEAN Heroes of Biodiversity. He also provided insights on the activities at the national level. More importantly, he encouraged all accredited ASEAN Entities to begin using the adopted official logo of the 50th anniversary of ASEAN, which appears as **ANNEX C**.

13. Following his briefing, DIR Yoong Yoong conducted a short but interesting light-exchange with the participants relating to questions on, among others, the 50th anniversary logo; sports development in ASEAN; role of youths in the ASEAN of tomorrow; and the indicators for success of the celebration of ASEAN 50.

WAY FORWARD

14. In his closing remarks, DSG AKP Mochtan was pleased with the robust discussion during the forum. He expressed his confidence that ASEAN will continue to work for a better society. He also encouraged all entities to exchange publications, updates, news, and information, widen networks and deepen partnership, as a way forward.

15. The Forum was held in the traditional ASEAN spirit of cordiality and solidarity.
