

ASEAN@50

Volume 5



The ASEAN Economic Community Into 2025 and Beyond

Edited by

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for ASEAN and East Asia



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DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS
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Foreword



I congratulate the Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia (ERIA), the Permanent Mission of the Philippines to ASEAN and the Philippine ASEAN National Secretariat for publishing this 5-volume publication on perspectives on the making, substance, significance and future of ASEAN. This valuable publication, forming part of the Philippines' commemorative activities in celebration of ASEAN's golden anniversary, highlights ASEAN as one of the world's most successful and enduring regional organizations.

It pleases me to note that this printed work equally supports the development priorities of President Rodrigo Duterte and the Philippine Chairmanship priorities – building a people-oriented and people-centered ASEAN, maintaining peace and stability in the region, cooperating in maritime security, advancing inclusive and innovation-led growth, promoting a resilient ASEAN, and establishing ASEAN as a model of regionalism and a global player. Consistent with President Duterte's pursuit of an independent foreign policy for the benefit of the Filipino people, the publication also affirms the ASEAN Community Blueprints in raising the profile and awareness on the ASEAN pillars of political-security, economic and socio-cultural communities.

We seek the aid of the Almighty and are hopeful that this publication will provide the reader with greater insights on ASEAN's history, will be used by decision makers, government officials, analysts, and the people of ASEAN, in charting the future course of the region.

Mabuhay!

Manila, August 2017

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Alan Peter S. Cayetano'.

Alan Peter S. Cayetano
Secretary of Foreign Affairs
Republic of the Philippines

Foreword



This 50th anniversary milestone of the founding of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) is truly an event worth celebrating. We should come together and admire the achievements we can all see around us, both the visible changes in cityscapes and livelihoods of citizens of the region, and the equally important but invisible absence of interstate war and conflict that has marked the region now for nearly two generations. ASEAN can be proud of the role it has played in all of these.

But the purpose of reflecting on the achievements of the past is not to be self-congratulatory and self-indulgent. We must use this occasion to take stock of how we got to where we are, identify the challenges ahead, and to consider new directions for the future. We must learn from the past, from this region and other regional groupings, and think about how to shape and balance a future in which leaders will need to take into account the aspirations of citizens on the one hand, and the implications of the gig economy and ageing populations on the other.

This anniversary must be the platform from which to do this stocktake. The road ahead is long. And we do not want historians of the future to say that after the first 50 years of the Association, its leaders, complacent with stability and growth, turned inwards and forgot that to sustain and consolidate the growth of the past, they still needed to work together to achieve the goals of the ASEAN Economic Blueprint 2025, a highly integrated, cohesive, and global dynamic economy, supportive of innovation and competition.

This fifth volume of ERIA's five-volume ASEAN@50 publication allows us to move beyond reflection and look into the challenges and possibilities for the future. The voices of ASEAN (see Volume 2) are again heard, along with the implications of other international developments that will have a bearing on the region. This volume moves on to look at many of the issues – from trade facilitation to non-tariff measures, services, connectivity, financial integration, and good regulatory practice, etc. – that are all still 'works in process' and need a lot more attention if by 2025 we are to have the ASEAN Economic Community we desire. Finally, this volume provides recommendations that could support us along the journey ahead, painting possibilities for where we may be in 2025 and 2035.

I would like to thank and congratulate all the contributors to this volume for their thoughts and computations that can inspire us for the journey. I would like to pay special thanks to H.E. Ambassador Elizabeth Buensuceso, Permanent Representative of the Philippines to ASEAN, for her passion and enthusiasm to support this and all other volumes of this anniversary publication.

Jakarta, August 2017

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "H. Nishimura". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letter 'H' being particularly large and stylized.

Hidetoshi Nishimura

President

Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia